



COLONIAL REPORTS

The Gambia
1954 and 1955

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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COLONIAL OFFICE

THE GAMBIA

Report for the years
1954 and 1955

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1957

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PART I

General Review of 1954 and 1955

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CONSTITUTION

AFTER proposals of a consultative committee on the constitution had been accepted in 1953, drafting of the necessary constitutional instruments began.

The Governor by Proclamation dissolved the Legislative Council on the 7th September, 1954, and appointed September the 8th, 1954, as the day on which the Orders in Council and Letters Patent should come into force to bring the new constitution into being.

General elections under the new constitution were held in Bathurst and Kombo St. Mary on October the 19th 1954. A feature was the issue for the first time in the Gambia of voters' cards to electors on which appeared the voters' photograph or thumb print. Symbols were used to identify candidates and each candidate's symbol together with his photograph appeared on a ballot box in the polling booths, thus making it possible for illiterates to cast their votes in secret. The success of this arrangement can be assessed by the fact that the number of spoiled ballot papers was negligible. The elections were conducted in a most orderly manner despite weeks of intense political excitement during the hottest period of the year. Indirect elections were also held in the Colony and Protectorate during October 1954.

The new Legislative Council met on November the 8th 1954, and unanimously elected Mr. J. A. Mahoney to be Speaker. The Executive Council, which had an unofficial majority for the first time, was then appointed. Arrangements under the new constitution were completed when, after consultation with all members of Legislative Council, His Excellency the Governor appointed three Ministers with Portfolio—yet another innovation in the Gambia. They were :

Pierre Sarr N'Jie—Minister of Education and Welfare.

(Appointment terminated December 1955).

Portfolio : Education, Labour, Prisons and Social Welfare.

Reverend John Colley Faye, M.B.E.—Minister of Works and Communications.

Portfolio : Public Works, Communications, Transport, Marine, Posts and Telegraphs, Meteorology, Civil Aviation and Electricity.

Ibrahim Garba-Jahumpa, J.P.—Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Portfolio : Agriculture, Veterinary Services, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, Fisheries and Mining.

The formal opening by the Governor of the new Legislative Council under the revised constitution took place at the British Council Centre in Bathurst on December the 14th, 1954, the Centre being used because the enlarged Legislative Council could not be accommodated in the old Legislative Council Chamber and new premises were not ready for occupation. Sir Hilton Poynton, Deputy Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, attended the ceremony as the personal representative of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

THE ECONOMY

The Gambia has few natural resources and its financial position is precarious. In 1953 it had been necessary to call on the services of a two-man commission, comprising a Colonial Office official and an official of Her Majesty's Treasury, to investigate and report on the financial position of the Colony. As a result of the Commission's recommendations, the Government reviewed its taxation policy and reduced expenditure, but was able to maintain the existing level of services, nevertheless the Government had to allow for an estimated deficit in its Budget for 1954 of £86,000. At the same time it was expected that the reserves would run down to the dangerously low figure of £340,000.

However, by the end of 1954 the estimated reserves had risen to £700,000, a figure at which they had stood five years previously, and an extremely unpleasant corner in the country's financial affairs appeared to have been turned. The predominant cause of the increase in reserves was inability to carry out programmes which had been planned and provided for. This was almost entirely due to difficulties in finding trained staff.

Groundnuts being the main commodity of the Gambia, it is inevitable that the size of the crop and the price at which it is sold are major factors in the country's economy. The groundnut buying season, or "Trade" season as it is known locally, commences in November and ends in April the following year. At the beginning of the 1954—55 trade season, the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board, with serious misgivings and in the knowledge that it might well entail a subsidy from its reserves (The Farmers' Fund) of £120,000, fixed the price per ton to be paid to farmers for their groundnuts at £32. In the event, the world price of groundnuts fell further than had been anticipated and the loss amounted to over £640,000. In consequence, in May 1955 the Government issued a statement of policy with regard to the fixing of groundnut prices and how the Budget for 1956 was to be framed, and also stated that during the 1955—56 trade season producer prices might fall by an amount which would give the economy of the territory a shock. In view of this, the Government framed its expenditure for 1956 in terms of the general economy of the country rather than in terms of a balanced Budget for the year. It was considered that

while the operations of trade and commerce should be brought to their proper economic level, it was justifiable to use the resources of the Government to maintain the standard of living while this operation was taking place. In order, therefore, to provide the maximum employment and to keep as much money as possible in circulation, it was proposed to maintain and, if possible, to increase in 1956 the amount of expenditure on Government programmes awaiting execution. This meant an unbalanced Budget, especially as every pound of reduction in producer income meant approximately a reduction of 3s. to Government revenue, apart from a short fall of between £111,000 and £120,000 which would follow the reduction of export duty.

Fears that the reduction of the price paid to farmers for groundnuts to £25 10s. 0d. per ton during the 1955—56 Trade season, a figure considerably below prices in adjacent French Senegal and Casamance, would cause Gambian groundnuts to flow across the frontiers into French territory were not realised.

AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HEALTH AND FISHERIES

While groundnuts continue to be the main cash crop of the Gambia, improvements have been made in food production ; in particular the increase in the production of rice has been spectacular and has almost banished the traditional "Hungry Season"—an annual hiatus between planting and harvesting during which the farmers and their families had to expend the maximum energy while at the same time eking out the remainder of their food stocks from the previous harvest. This has been achieved by constructing access causeways into the more fertile swamplands nearer the river and by bridging the deeper creeks ; and by contract ploughing of rice lands, a job undertaken by the Agricultural Department and which now covers over 1,500 acres annually. Considerable propaganda by word of mouth and films has had the effect of getting the men to share the work of rice cultivation, traditionally the exclusive work of women. There is, however, still room for increasing the yield per acre and new varieties of rice and techniques are being tested. In this connection an Indian rice expert is doing very valuable work in the Central Division of the Protectorate.

The former rice farm of the Colonial Development Corporation in the MacCarthy Island Division in the middle River District of the Protectorate, which was taken over by the Gambia Government, is increasing its acreage and yield annually, and is also conducting experiments in varieties of rice.

At its experimental farm at Yundum the Agricultural Department is carrying out fundamental research into the problems of loss of soil fertility and continues to search for alternative export crops to the groundnut. Strides have been made in the protection of seed groundnuts from the ravages of insects and also in the manufacture of compost.

The campaign against animal pests has continued and during the

last five years over 140,000 baboons, 35,000 wild pigs and 50,000 destructive monkeys have been accounted for.

In the veterinary field the inoculation of cattle has been most thorough and the cattle population has increased. To reduce the number of cattle to within grazing limits, a Gambia Cattle Marketing Board was set up and, with the assistance of a cattle boat specially constructed by the Marine Department, a start has been made in marketing cattle. Plans are on foot to open up markets in Sierra Leone and, possibly Liberia.

The Gambia coast provides excellent fishing grounds and experiments have been made with outboard motors attached to canoes.

There is a well organised system of distribution of fish by lorries or bicycles, inland for some seventy miles. Fish smoking and drying on a minor scale is well established and some processed fish is shipped to Sierra Leone. Lack of regular shipping appears to be the chief obstacle to the expansion of an export trade to other British West African territories.

MINERAL DEVELOPMENTS

Large deposits of ilmenite, a mineral of low value, were found on the ocean shores of the Gambia in 1953. Prospecting rights were given to a local subsidiary of a large United Kingdom firm which has since erected buildings and plant and also constructed several miles of roads and railway. Mining operations were expected to begin in 1956, but it is not expected that this new development will have any fundamental effect on the economy of the Territory.

Investigations into the possibility of there being deposits of oil in the Gambia have been undertaken.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The establishment of co-operative societies in a small way has begun under the supervision of the Colony Commissioner in Bathurst and its environs with the aid of two African inspectors, but a Registrar of Co-operative Societies is being sought.

U.N. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The need for a social survey of Bathurst and the Kombo St. Mary District had been felt for some time. In response to requests for assistance, the Secretary of State for the Colonies arranged with the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration for the secondment of Mr. C. O. Van der Plas, a distinguished Dutch administrator and sociologist, to conduct the survey. He arrived in March 1954 and departed in November of the same year. His report and main recommendations for agricultural research were taken up with the Secretary of State and a revised plan is being carried out with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Mr. Van der Plas returned to the Gambia for a year in April 1955 to assist in carrying out his recommendations and to carry out further investigations into, among other subjects, the possibilities of co-operative organisations; the development of the Colony's fishing resources, and in particular into the problems of marketing and export; and in general to investigate possibilities of progress in schemes which would not entail heavy recurrent expenditure. He also analysed villages and areas in the Protectorate which had increased their rice production and assessed the changes in the social-economic structure resulting from the extension of rice cultivation in the Territory. His report on the latter subject was published by the Government. He assisted the Director of Agriculture in planning a scheme for building-up agricultural extension work and training staff for this purpose.

EDUCATION

It became necessary in 1954 to make temporary arrangements in Bathurst for the accommodation of further children, pending the erection of buildings which would house a new primary school. This school, for which Colonial Development and Welfare assistance has been obtained, is expected to open early in 1957.

The recommendation of the Baldwin Report on Education in the Gambia for the establishment of one secondary school for the whole Territory was rejected by the Legislative Council.

As a result of the Gwilliam Report on Primary Education in the Gambia, 1953, the Government sent a number of teachers to England for further training during 1954—55.

By the end of the period under review the teacher training establishment at Yundum (Yundum College) had a Principal and nearly its full complement of teaching staff. The College is housed in the buildings of the Colonial Development Corporation's former Egg and Poultry Farm which have been fully converted to fulfil their new function.

Towards the end of 1955 the Government came to the conclusion that a new approach was necessary in order effectively to carry out its policy with regard to Protectorate education. In consequence it was decided to place the direction of Protectorate education under a Commission, and to place Yundum College under a Board of Governors.

HEALTH

The new buildings of the Victoria Hospital built with Colonial Development and Welfare funds were completed except for the children's ward.

The Medical Research Council continued to operate a research station at Fajara, some nine miles from Bathurst, to investigate problems arising from the study of tropical diseases in the Gambia.

OPENING OF "THE ATLANTIC HOTEL"

In 1954 Gambian private enterprise backed by the Government began the construction of a modern hotel on the Marina foreshore at Bathurst. "The Atlantic Hotel," as it is called, was opened by the Governor early in 1955 and is one of the finest hotels in West Africa. Already the number of aircraft calling at Yundum Airport is mounting and the advent of the Hotel may mark the beginning of a tourist industry taking full advantage of the Gambia's splendid winter climate.

EXTENSION OF GOVERNMENT WHARF, BATHURST

The extension of Government Wharf at Bathurst, providing deep water berthing at all states of the tide, permits unloading direct onto the quayside near the customs sheds by ocean-going shipping. Messrs. Elder Dempster Lines Limited now bring their mail boats alongside. Pilotage was made compulsory during the period under review.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Public Works Department is the largest single Department of Government and, in addition to its normal building and construction functions, operates and maintains the water supplies for Bathurst and is responsible for the control of the airport and civil aviation.

Prior to the 1st January 1955, it was also responsible for wireless and telephone communications, electricity and marine services. Wireless and telephone communications have now become the responsibility of the Postmaster General, and Electricity and Marine services have become separate departments each under its own Departmental Head.

During 1954—55 the Public Works Department spent £113,900 on new building work, which is listed at page 53. Particularly noteworthy, was the work carried out with Colonial Development and Welfare funds to provide storm water drainage of Bathurst and reclaim 400 acres of swamp at the rear of the town. This has improved malaria control, and permitted the reconstruction of streets and street paving and street drainage to proceed.

Investigations to improve the water supplies of Bathurst, which included sinking five deep boreholes, have been completed and a scheme for the introduction of new water supplies has been finalised. Work on the scheme was to begin in 1956.

Improved water supplies have been provided in various Protectorate stations and the programme for the provision of improved wells in the Protectorate villages continued satisfactorily.

Admiralty Wharf in Bathurst has been reconstructed and new wharves have been built at Albreda and Tendaba in the Lower River.

Early in 1955 a new power station of the most modern type was put into service in Bathurst, replacing the old installation which could

no longer meet the growing demand for electricity. The new station supplies Bathurst by underground cable and Cape St. Mary and Yundum by overhead cable.

OTHER EVENTS

The Laws of the Gambia were revised during 1955 by Sir Donald Kingdon, Q.C., and were to be printed in 1956 in eight volumes.

In 1954 the Frigate H.M.S. *Pelican* visited Bathurst and in 1955 the Frigate H.M.S. *Sparrow*.

A list of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress in 1954—55 is given at Appendix IV.

* * *

The Gambia Government is represented in London by the Sierra Leone and Gambia Commissioner whose offices are situated at 120, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

PART II

Chapter 1 : Population

EXCEPT for the year 1941, when the census was deferred until 1944, a census has been held in Bathurst every 10 years since 1901. The last census, held in November 1951, included for the first time the Kombo St. Mary Division. The population of Bathurst was found to be 19,602 compared with 21,152 in 1944, a decrease of 1,550 which was attributed to the dispersal of numbers of strangers attracted to Bathurst by the work available during the war. Figures for previous censuses were :

| | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|--------|
| 1901 | . | . | . | . | 8,807 |
| 1911 | . | . | . | . | 7,700 |
| 1921 | . | . | . | . | 9,227 |
| 1931 | . | . | . | . | 14,370 |

The population of Kombo St. Mary at the 1951 census was 7,695, compared with 8,131 in 1946, the latter figure being derived from a rough count of occupied premises made for rating purposes. Almost half the population of Bathurst and Kombo St. Mary are Wollofs. Akus, Mandingos, Fulas, Jolas and Sereres make up the remainder of the African population in roughly equal proportions. The census recorded a total of 544 non-Africans in the Colony, including 222 British, 47 French, 201 Syrians and Lebanese and 74 others.

The total population of the Protectorate was estimated, as a result of the annual counts, as 261,564 in 1953 and 253,234 in 1954. The figures upon which these totals are based are collected by the District and Group Treasury Scribes and though they are based upon the annual rates assessments, they are not very accurate, particularly in such matters as division into tribes and between faiths, and in the number of women and children. The figures given do not include the 11,372 "strange farmers" who came in 1953 and the 12,303 who came in 1954 (an account of these is given in Chapter 6). Immigrant settlers are, however, included in the figures.

The returns show the population distributed as follows among the main tribal divisions :

| | 1953 | 1954 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Mandingo | 115,171 | 106,606 |
| Fula (all tribal sub-divisions) . | 58,729* | 57,452 |
| Wollof | 35,016 | 35,670 |
| Serahuli | 19,536 | 21,153 |
| Jola | 18,041 | 19,750 |
| Others | 15,071 | 12,603 |
| | <hr/> 261,564 | <hr/> 253,234 |

*Includes 2,476 Tombukos previously shown amongst "Others."

The "Others" include representatives from various tribal groups concentrated over the border, who live individually or in small communities among the main tribes in the Gambia. Among these, from the 1954 figures, may be noted 528 Mauretanian Arabs and half Arabs, mainly engaged in cattle trade and petty trade, the Manjagos (2,975), Sereres (3,316), and Bambarras (2,675).

The Mandingos are spread fairly evenly throughout the length of the territory on both banks, being especially concentrated in the Central Division (43,181). The Fulas preponderate in the MacCarthy Island Division (19,524) and Upper River Division (17,264). The greatest concentration of Wollofs is in the Saloum Districts of the Central Division: 13,951 of them live in an almost homogeneous block which corresponds to a large group of this tribe over the border in the Senegal ; the balance is spread up and down the territory on both banks, chiefly on the millet-growing lands near the border, except in the Upper River Division (295 only). The Jolas, who are believed to have moved within the last century into a great part of the land they now occupy and which was until then partly thick forest, are nearly all in the Western Division (18,962) and mostly to be found in Foni Districts to the South of the Bintang Creek. Most of the Serahulis live in the Upper River Division (18,617). All figures in this paragraph are from the 1954 returns.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour

Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

NINETY per cent of the population are peasant farmers whose main cash crop is groundnuts. These are planted with the first rains in June, harvested with the last rains in October and are ready for marketing in December. Traditionally the groundnut has been the men's crop, the women concentrating on growing rice and certain food, compound and garden crops. Latterly the great expansion of rice cultivation, particularly in the middle river swamps, has caused rice to become an important cash crop in those areas and an increasing number of men are turning to rice growing and to helping the women in the swamps. Migrant workers known as "strange farmers" enter the country each year from the Senegal and Portuguese Guinea to cultivate groundnuts on land made available under traditional arrangements by Gambian farmers. The numbers are known with variable accuracy through the annual assessment carried out by Native Authorities in the Protectorate for rating purposes. There is also a certain amount of seasonal

movement within the Gambia for the same purpose. The total number of migrant workers counted in the Protectorate during the period under review was :

| 1954 | 1955 |
|--------|-------|
| 11,410 | 9,648 |

In the off-farming season young men from the country districts come into Bathurst and the river ports after they have sold their groundnuts in search of whatever employment they can find, such as loading groundnuts. They return home before the beginning of the rains to resume farming.

In the Western Division, Gambia Minerals Limited, during the two years under review, installed plant for the mining and evacuation of ilmenite, and expected to start exporting in 1956. This is the first large industrial undertaking to be established in the Gambia.

It is mainly in Bathurst that appreciable numbers of wage earners are employed. The Government is the chief employer, directly employing over 2,300 in 1954 and approximately 2,500 in the year 1955. The various trading firms employed between them about 1,500 persons during the period under review. Two groundnut oil mills and decortiating plants near Bathurst operate during the trade season.

The classification by trades of persons employed in Bathurst was as follows :

| | 1954 | | 1955 | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| Labourers | 1,831 | — | 2,067 | — |
| Masons | 131 | — | 125 | — |
| Motor Drivers | 171 | — | 216 | — |
| Carpenters and Joiners | 219 | — | 224 | — |
| Fitters and Mechanics | 142 | — | 169 | — |
| Blacksmiths | 32 | — | 35 | — |
| Electricians | 54 | — | 58 | — |
| Traders and Shopkeepers | 272 | — | 300 | — |
| Clerks | 459 | no record | 544 | 76 |
| Others | 1,341 | no record | 1,388 | 54 |

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The statutory minimum wage in the Colony was raised in 1952 from 3s. a day to 3s. 4*d.* for an eight hour working day by unskilled labourers, with a minimum of 3s. 9*d.* for casual labourers, and 6*d.* an hour overtime. These rates were maintained. Casual labourers employed in loading groundnuts were paid at the rate of 2*d.* a bag. At this rate labourers can earn from ten to fifteen shillings a day.

The statutory minimum wage of £3 a month with rations for sailors and lightermen engaged on the river in commercial craft remains unchanged.

RATES OF WAGES 1954—1955

| | <i>Daily</i> | | | | | | <i>Monthly</i> | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|--|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | s. | d. | | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | |
| Labourers | 3 | 4 | to | 5 | 3 | | 4 | 6 | 8 | to | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Skilled Artisans | 6 | 6 | — | 10 | 0 | | 5 | 0 | 0 | — | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Clerks | 5 | 0 | — | 10 | 0 | | 7 | 0 | 0 | — | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| Motor Drivers | 5 | 0 | — | 7 | 6 | | 6 | 0 | 0 | — | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Cooks | | | — | | | | 5 | 10 | 0 | — | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Stewards | | | — | | | | 5 | 0 | 0 | — | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Painters | 6 | 6 | — | 10 | 0 | | 6 | 0 | 0 | — | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Telephone Operators | 4 | 0 | — | 5 | 0 | | 10 | 0 | 0 | — | 40 | 0 | 0 |

The maximum monthly wages shown are for technicians in supervisory grades.

Daily paid employees are paid time and a quarter for hours worked in excess of 8 hours provided they have completed 44 hours during the week. Time and a half is also the rate paid for overtime work done on Sundays and on Public Holidays.

The average working week in commercial firms is 44 hours. In Government departments clerical staff work $36\frac{1}{2}$ hours per week and manual workers 43 hours.

There are eight paid holidays in the year. Government regular daily paid employees are paid for such holidays, but not for Sundays.

COST OF LIVING

The Cost of Living Index is based on the estimated needs of a worker earning £6 per month and having one wife and one child. The Index is taken to be 100 on 31st March 1950. In the first quarter of 1954 it stood at 117 and fell to 109 at the end of 1955. The variation over the two years for the five main items is given in the following tables :

| | <i>1954 1955</i> <i>March</i> | | <i>1954 1955</i> <i>June</i> | | <i>1954 1955</i> <i>Sept.</i> | | <i>1954 1955</i> <i>Dec.</i> | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| i. Food | 124 | 113 | 107 | 113 | 116 | 110 | 117 | 110 |
| ii. Clothing | 106 | 100 | 105 | 105 | 93 | 107 | 98 | 104 |
| iii. Fuel and Light | 100 | 123 | 119 | 115 | 119 | 118 | 123 | 115 |
| iv. Rent | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| v. Miscellaneous | 82 | 86 | 80 | 91 | 95 | 91 | 81 | 97 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| All items | 117 | 111 | 107 | 111 | 114 | 110 | 114 | 109 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Mid-year and end-year retail prices of principal foodstuffs were as follows :

| | Measure | Average Price 1950 | | Average Price 1954 | | | | Average Price 1955 | | | |
|---------------------|----------|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|------|----|--------------------|----|------|----|
| | | | | June | | Dec. | | June | | Dec. | |
| | | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| Rice . . . | 1 lb. | | 7 | | 4 | | 6½ | | 5¾ | | 6 |
| Coos . . . | 1 lb. | | 2¾ | | 4 | | 4 | | 4 | | 4 |
| Fish . . . | 1 lb. | | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | | 3 |
| Meat . . . | 1 lb. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Groundnut Oil . . . | 1 gallon | 12 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 6 |
| Palm Oil . . . | 1 gallon | 6 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Sugar . . . | 1 lb. | | 7½ | | 8 | | 7 | | 7 | | 7 |
| Cassava . . . | 1 lb. | | 2 | | 2 | | 3 | | 3 | | 3 |
| Groundnuts . . . | 4 oz. | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Bread . . . | 3 oz. | | 1½ | | 1½ | | 1½ | | 1½ | | 1½ |

LABOUR OFFICE

Labour matters are handled by a Labour Officer and a small staff centred in Bathurst. A labour Advisory Board is responsible for reviewing conditions of labour in the Colony and the Protectorate and advising the Government on all labour matters, including the fixing of wages. A labour employment exchange was opened in Bathurst in May 1952, and the registration of unemployed persons under the Employment Exchange and Registration of Employment Ordinance, 1951, started. The total number of unemployed placed in employment through the exchange was 501 in 1954 and 300 in 1955.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There are three registered trade unions—the Gambia Labour Union, the Bathurst Trade Union, and the Gambia River Trade and Commercial Workers Union. None has a membership of more than a few hundreds. The Gambia Labour Union, which is affiliated to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the River Trade and Commercial Workers Union, have set up a Central Council through which to settle matters of common interest. The following associations of workers also exist but have not yet registered as trade unions :

| | <i>membership</i> |
|---|-------------------|
| The Motor Drivers and Mechanics Union . . . | 670 |
| The Teachers Union | 250 |
| The Junior Civil Servants Association . . . | 1,000 |
| The Senior Civil Service Association . . . | 150 |

Four Whitley Councils provide machinery for negotiation between the Government and the senior civil service, the clerical staff, the technical staff and the teachers.

Labour relations remained satisfactory, and no trade dispute resulted in a stoppage of work during 1954 and 1955.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The Arbitration Ordinance (No. 6 of 1955) which makes provision for the reference and submission of disputes to arbitration was enacted on

the 31st May 1955. No other labour legislation was enacted. The following labour legislation is in force :

Minimum Wage Order, No. 23 of 1952.

The Trade Union Ordinance, 1932.

The Forced Labour Ordinance, 1934.

The Wharves (Safety of Workers) Regulation, 1938.

The Labour Ordinance, 1944.

The Merchant Shipping (International Labour Conventions) Ordinance, 1940.

The Recruiting of Workers Ordinance, 1940.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1940.

The Factories Ordinance, 1941.

The Employment of Ex-Servicemen Ordinance, 1945.

The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950.

The Employment Exchange and Registration of Employment Ordinance, 1951.

The Native Labour (Foreign Service) Ordinance, 1913.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

There is a Government trade school for training masons and carpenters, which had 23 pupils in 1954 and 28 in 1955. The Public Works and Marine Departments have apprenticeship schemes. The total number of apprentices in 1954 was 44. There is also a Government Clerical School which had 86 pupils in 1954 and 50 in 1955.

During 1955 Mr. J. F. James, an expert from the International Labour Office, spent eight months in Bathurst holding Training Within Industry courses.

Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

APPENDICES I to III set out revenue and expenditure during the period 1948—1955. These figures have been adjusted to exclude repayments of revenue received, and net totals are shown, as well as the gross totals that appear in the published annual accounts.

PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt at 31st December 1954 was £198,760 and there was a Sinking Fund of £27,990. These items, as well as an amount of £25,000 owing to the Government on account of an interest-free war-loan made to Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, are not included in the assets and liabilities shown overleaf.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets and liabilities at 31st December 1954 were as follows :

| <i>Liabilities</i> | £ | <i>Assets</i> | £ |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Steamer and Marine | | Advances . . . | 302,064 |
| Craft Depreciation . | 28,071 | Investments . . . | 2,432,685 |
| General Reserve . . | 448,878 | Joint Colonial Fund . | 254,000 |
| Government Savings | | | |
| Bank | 219,525 | | |
| Deposits | 220,564 | | |
| General Revenue Balance | | | |
| Account | 403,454 | Cash and Bank Balances | 43,779 |
| Farmers Fund . . . | 1,712,036 | | |
| | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | £3,032,528 | | £3,032,528 |

MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION

Income Tax

Income tax was introduced in 1940. The receipts for 1954 were £65,721 from companies and £20,392 from private persons, and for 1955, £72,709 and £13,426 respectively. There is a sliding scale of personal income tax, which amounted to the following rates on chargeable incomes in the years under review (incomes of single persons up to £200 a year and of married persons up to £350 a year are free of tax, and there are additional allowances for dependents) :

| <i>Chargeable Income</i> | <i>Average rate of tax in £</i> | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|------|----|
| | 1954 | | 1955 | |
| £ | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 400 | | 9 | | 6 |
| 600 | 1 | 2 | | 8 |
| 1,000 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2,000 | 3 | 6½ | 2 | 9½ |
| 5,000 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9¾ |
| 10,000 | 10 | 0 | 8 | 5 |

The Company rate was reduced from 10s. 3d. to 9s. in the £ from the 1st January 1955.

Customs Duties

The increased yield from customs duties (see Appendix I) was due to the increased volume of trade.

The average rate of duty for all goods was equivalent, in *ad valorem* terms, to 23 per cent in 1954 and 22 per cent in 1955. Rates of duty on tobacco, liquor and kola-nuts remained almost the same and realised £63,000, £25,000, and £70,000 respectively in 1954, and £64,000, £41,000, and £44,000 in 1955. The rate of preferential duty on kola-nuts was increased to 6d. per lb. in August 1955.

Except for grain, milk, building materials, sugar, refrigerators and a few other items, all goods are liable to import duties. There is a general *ad valorem* rate of 15 per cent preferential and 17½ per cent

general which came into force in August 1955 ; important exceptions being cotton piece goods $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and 25 per cent, and perfumed spirits $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent, spirituous liquors, viz. : whisky and gin £4 preferential and £5 general per gallon, others 30s. preferential and 30s. general per gallon ; manufactured tobacco 6s. and 8s. per lb., unmanufactured tobacco 2s. 6d. and 2s. 9d. per lb. ; kola-nuts 6d. and 9d. per lb. ; motor spirit 1s. 5d. per gallon.

There is also an export duty on groundnuts, decorticated and undecorticated, and on palm-kernels. The rates of duty on the first two items were reduced during 1955 to £4 6s. 0d. and £6 5s. 0d. per ton respectively. Groundnut cake and groundnut oil pay export duty of £6 10s. 0d. per ton.

An ordinance for the levying of harbour dues on all goods which are entered and cleared from the Port of Bathurst was enacted in 1948. The following is the latest revised scale of dues :

| | Rate per ton of 20 cwt. | |
|--|-------------------------|----|
| | s. | d. |
| Beeswax | 6 | 8 |
| Hides and skins | 20 | 0 |
| Groundnuts (decorticated and undecorticated) | 5 | 0 |
| Horns | 16 | 0 |
| Groundnut Oil | 5 | 9 |
| Palm-kernels | 5 | 0 |
| Shea butter | 4 | 0 |
| Other cargo per ton weight or measurement on which freight is charged | 6 | 0 |

LOCAL AUTHORITIES' FINANCES

In the Colony, the Bathurst Town Council levies rates of 1s. 6d. and 3s. in the £ on residential and commercial properties respectively. A rate of 12s. in the £ is paid on all Government property in the Town Council's rating area.

The Kombo Rural Authority levies a rate of 1s. 6d. in the £ on properties at Cape St. Mary and Fajara and 10d. in the £ on those situated elsewhere.

The only direct tax charged by the Bathurst Town Council is on palm wine entering the town. No direct taxes are raised by the Kombo Rural Authority.

Property in the Protectorate is subject to a direct tax known as the District Rate, which accrues to the District Treasuries (see Part III chapter 3, Administration). The rates remained unchanged during the period under review and were :

| | s. |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| for each yard of 4 huts | 30 |
| „ „ extra hut | 5 |
| „ „ lodger | 5 |
| „ „ strange farmer | 10 |

The totals of revenue and expenditure of the Local Authorities in

1954 and 1955 were as follows :

| | | <i>Revenue</i> £ | <i>Expenditure</i> £ |
|--|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Bathurst Town Council (including loans and grants) | 1954 : | 35,687 | 35,480 |
| | 1955 : | 39,296 | 39,296 |
| Kombo Rural Authority | 1954 : | 2,407 | 2,334 |
| | 1955 : | 2,573 | 2,573 |
| Protectorate Authorities | 1953-1954 : | 77,100 | 61,063 |
| (Financial year ending 30th June) | 1954-55 : | 80,426 | 66,508 |

Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

CURRENCY in circulation at 31st December 1955 was £6,744,221, over 16 times the pre-war amount. Of this, £6,176,087 was in notes of £5, £1 and 10s. denominations.

Circulation is always at its highest point in December and January, when large amounts are issued for the purchase of groundnuts. As a rule these issues of currency are quickly used for the purchase of goods, and circulation falls in February and March, and remains low until the opening of the next trade season. Notes of the Banque d'Afrique Occidentale circulate freely in parts of the Protectorate, and British West African currency also circulates across the border in the Senegal and the Casamance.

The Bank of British West Africa is the only bank operating in the Gambia ; it has one office only, situated in Bathurst. The principal trading firms make their own arrangements for remitting funds to places in the Protectorate. The Government river steamer service carries money as freight, and small amounts are transmitted through the Post Office on board the steamer (money order remittances) and through District Treasuries and Post Offices at Basse, Georgetown Kuntaur, Mansa Konko and Brikama.

Savings Bank deposits amounted to some £219,525 at the end of 1954. Before the war, deposits amounted to less than £5,000. It is, probable that amounts held in deposit in the Bank of British West Africa have also risen considerably. The total amount held in the United Kingdom by the Gambia Government on its own account and on account of its depositors was £2,686,823 in 1954 as compared with £284,000 in 1939.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

EXPORTS

ALMOST all commercial activity in the Gambia centres upon the marketing of groundnuts, which is at present the only export crop of major financial significance. In 1954 and 1955, 47,260 and 46,229 tons

of groundnuts, valued at £2,679,214 and £2,355,568 respectively, were exported. The other exports are beeswax, hides and skins, and palm kernels ; their values in 1954 were £1,637, £4,646 and £87,433 respectively, and in 1955, £1,938, £2,535 and £80,598 respectively.

The following were the values and tonnages of groundnuts exported from 1947 to 1955, and the value of other exports, together with the average figures for earlier five year periods.

| <i>Period</i> | <i>Value</i> | | <i>Groundnuts Tonnage</i> | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| | <i>Ground-nuts</i> | <i>Other *</i> | <i>Undecorticated</i> | <i>Decor-ticated</i> |
| | £ | £ | | |
| 1955 . | 2,356,000 | 85,071 | 22,573 | 23,656 |
| 1954 . | 2,679,000 | 93,716 | 34,531 | 12,729 |
| 1953 . | 2,478,000 | 96,052 | 50,982 | — |
| 1952 . | 3,562,000 | 104,306 | 60,683 | — |
| 1951 . | 2,697,000 | 270,000 | 53,791 | — |
| 1950 . | 2,107,000 | 53,000 | 58,791 | — |
| 1949 . | 1,571,000 | 45,000 | 61,106 | — |
| 1948 . | 1,628,000 | 33,000 | 66,430 | 2,504 |
| 1947 . | 1,066,000 | 28,000 | 49,387 | 4,858 |
| 1940/44 | 230,000 | 10,000 | 21,000 | 7,000 |
| 1935/39 | 390,000 | 6,000 | 51,000 | 1,000 |

*Excluding re-exports valued at £134,517 in 1954 and £161,392 in 1955.

The value of exports varies considerably with good and bad farming seasons, and to some extent with the quantity of groundnuts brought across the frontier for sale in the Gambia, and on the number of "strange" farmers who migrate annually to the Gambia.

BALANCE OF TRADE AND PRICE CONTROL

From 1943 to 1953 the Colony had an adverse visible balance of trade. This was possible on account of expenditure by departments and organisations of Her Majesty's Government locally, and the demand in the Senegal for goods imported into the Gambia.

Although expenditure in the Gambia by Service Departments had virtually ceased by 1947, the demand for goods, which exceeded supply, was maintained by the high price paid for groundnuts and by savings accumulated in the war years. The price of undecorticated groundnuts at buying stations was fixed at £32 per ton for the 1953—1954 and the 1954—1955 trade seasons.

Goods are imported by concerns of European, Gambian, and Indian origin. These maintain their own retailing organisations at suitable points in the Colony and Protectorate and also supply Gambian and Syrian traders conducting their own retail businesses.

The price of commodities is not controlled except for a limited range of basic foodstuffs which are subject to Maximum Price Orders.

The maximum price at which groundnuts and palm kernels are purchased from farmers is also fixed annually by Order after consultation between the Government and the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board.

IMPORTS

Total imports were valued at £2,595,000 in 1954 and £3,710,000 in 1955. The principal imports in 1954 and 1955 were as follows :

| <i>Article</i> | <i>1954</i> | | <i>1955</i> | |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | <i>Q'ntity</i> | <i>Value</i> | <i>Q'ntity</i> | <i>Value</i> |
| | | £'000 | | £'000 |
| Cotton Piece Goods (000 sq. yd.) | 5,875 | 474 | 7,507 | 575 |
| Other Cotton Goods | — | 88 | — | 5 |
| Apparel | — | 127 | — | 192 |
| Artificial Silk (000 sq. yd.) | — | 56 | 780 | 84 |
| Milk (000 cwt.) | 2 | 16 | 7 | 59 |
| Rice (000 cwt.) | 41 | 87 | 96 | 206 |
| Other Grain | — | — | — | — |
| Flour Wheaten (000 cwt.) | 24 | 71 | 27 | 77 |
| Sugar (000 cwt.) | 30 | 81 | 53 | 148 |
| Kola-Nuts (centals of 100 lbs.) | 30 | 221 | 24 | 227 |
| Unmanufactured Tobacco (000 lbs.) | 325 | 52 | 239 | 37 |
| Cigarettes (000 lbs.) | 72 | 46 | 113 | 71 |
| Aviation Spirit (000 gall.) | 354 | 29 | 21 | 2 |
| Kerosene (000 gall.) | 153 | 23 | 155 | 25 |
| Motor Spirit (000 gall.) | 610 | 31 | 694 | 35 |
| Bags and Sacks, empty, new (000) No. | 874 | 96 | 1,219 | 75 |
| Bags and Sacks, empty, old (000) No. | 21 | 1 | 22 | 2 |
| Ale, Beer, Stout and Porter (000 gall.) | 58 | 26 | 79 | 36 |
| Spirits (000 gall.) | 10 | 15 | 17 | 26 |
| Soap, Toilet, including shaving soap and cream (cwt.) | 99 | 1 | 164 | 2 |
| Soap, other kinds, Common Soap (000 cwt.) | 10 | 35 | 11 | 41 |
| Candles (cwt.) | 1,188 | 10 | 1,215 | 9 |
| Hardware | — | 81 | — | 192 |
| Wines (000 gall.) | 15 | 9 | 23 | 12 |
| Other Goods | — | 919 | — | 1,572 |
| Total Imports* | | 2,595 | | 3,710 |
| Re-Exports | | 135 | | 161 |
| Net Imports | | 2,460 | | 3,549 |

* Excluding Bullion.

Chapter 6 : Production

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

THERE are no figures available showing the areas under each of the main crops. The cash crop, groundnuts, is grown on the light sandy

soils, away from the riverside swamps. The staple food, rice, is cultivated on low-lying land and in valleys with streams (Western Division), and in fresh water swamps (MacCarthy Island Division). In the Upper River Division little rice is grown. Sorghum and millet are planted either on land newly cleared from woodland or on fields manured by cattle. Maize is limited to small plots, around the houses, fertilised by household rubbish. *Digitaria* (findo) is sown on light upland soils. Little cotton is grown except by the Fulas.

Fruit trees—mangoes, oranges, bananas, pawpaws, and limes—are planted round the houses in the villages, the numbers of fruit trees being greatest in the Western Division. Dry season gardens, where onions, tomatoes, okra, peppers, etc., are grown, are cultivated near streams, beside wells, and on the edge of swamp land where water is available at a shallow depth.

Cattle find pasturage during the rainy season in the uncultivated land, and in the dry season in the low-lying lands bordering the river or in valleys with water courses. At harvest time they feed on sorghum leaves, and when the groundnuts have been threshed, on groundnut haulms.

As the Gambia is a flat country, the only elevations being fifty to a hundred feet high laterite outcrops, one finds little evidence of gully erosion, and consequently there are no specific regulations dealing with land and water conservation.

The native system of farming which involves a rotation of crops, mixed cropping, manuring by cattle whenever feasible and, on outlying farms, a period of "bush fallow", helps to maintain fertility.

With an increasing population and the need for extra farming land there has also been an increase in the clearing of woodland. However, since 1952, 66 forest parks have been established in 29 districts amounting to 84,135 acres, and the planting of fruit trees as well as shade trees is encouraged in the villages. Some District Authorities have also passed regulations controlling the burning of grass in the dry season.

Land Tenure in the Protectorate

Land tenure in the Protectorate is regulated by the Protectorate Lands Ordinance No. 16 of 1945. This was designed to preserve the existing customary rights of the indigenous inhabitants of the Protectorate to use and enjoy the land and to regulate the interests which could be acquired by non-indigenous persons in Protectorate land. It therefore declared that all Protectorate lands were vested in the Authorities of the Districts in which they were situated, to be held and administered for the use and common benefit of the communities concerned. Its effect in legal parlance is to vest the land in the District Authorities in trust for the inhabitants according to native law and custom. The Ordinance laid down the procedure to be adopted for leasing the land, limiting the time for which it could be acquired, and for fixing and revising rents, and stating the circumstances in which

land could be acquired for public purposes. No land can be occupied by a non-indigene without the consent of the Authority concerned, and unless such consent is further implemented by the approval of the Divisional Commissioner, the occupier is deemed to be merely a tenant at will. Any tenancy intended to last for a period of more than three years must have a written agreement (a lease must be executed) and no non-indigene may be granted a lease for a term greater than fifty years, though such lease may contain an option to renew. The use and occupation of land by indigenes is still governed by local customary law.

Land Tenure in the Colony

Land Tenure in the Colony is regulated by the Colony Lands Ordinance 1945. Land in the Colony is either freehold or Crown Land, substantially all the freehold land being situated in Bathurst itself where some 90 per cent of the town plots are freehold, with many of the grants dating back to the first half of the 19th Century.

No freehold grants have been made in recent years and under the Colony Lands Ordinance no such grants may be made without the approval of the Secretary of State. Leases of Crown Land in the Colony are granted by the Government for terms, in some cases, of up to 99 years to encourage the erection of substantial buildings, but most residential leases are 21 years with an option for a further 21 years. However there is no statutory limitation on the length of terms which may be granted and no distinction is made in the ordinance between indigenes and non-indigenes.

Colony Land outside Bathurst, that is to say, in the Kombo St. Mary Division, is held either on lease under the Colony Lands Ordinance, or on customary tenure which is deemed to be a year-to-year tenancy of the Crown under the provisions of the Kombo St. Mary Division Ordinance, 1946, and in effect, in such cases, the Crown is in the position of the District Authorities in the Protectorate.

Holdings

Protectorate land held by non-indigenous inhabitants consists only of sites occupied by Government stations, by Missions, and of plots of land leased to traders. Most of the traders occupy land alongside the river in the "wharf towns," and the total acreage held by such traders and the Missions is small.

Government holdings, which include the Agricultural Station, Yundum Airport and the Walikunda Rice Farm amount in all to just under 3,500 acres.

A number of the African inhabitants of Bathurst have gardens and orchards in the Kombo districts, holding the land under local customary law.

Land tenure in the Colony has been mentioned above, but in the Protectorate, rights over land were originally acquired by settling and

clearing previously unclaimed land, and, at a later stage, by grants from the early kings and chiefs. Such rights however were often modified by conquest, and by groups asserting their independence.

Nowadays most farming land is acquired by the inheritance of rights to use land cleared by one's ancestors. Those wishing to found a new village may be granted unused land by the District Authority. On the foundation of a village the headman allocates land to those who settle with him, and thereafter their descendants have the right to use such land. Most of the rights are exercised by the heads of compounds who decide where crops shall be planted, and allocate land to various members of the household. Land which is not required by its owner is freely lent for farming purposes for short periods, permission to use the land normally being renewed annually. No rent is paid, though a small gift is normally presented when the request for land is made. The selling of land is unknown, and the pledging of land very rare, and generally disapproved of.

Rents for land occupied by non-indigenous inhabitants, traders, etc., are paid to the District Authorities. The renting of farm land, however, is not practised in the Protectorate with the exception of the leases held by Government for the Yundum Experimental Station and the Gambia Rice Farm at Sapu.

In the Kombo districts there has developed in recent years the custom of renting shop sites in advantageous positions, the shops being situated in private compounds.

The chief progress in land utilisation has been the great extension of rice farming in the mangrove areas made possible by the building of access causeways and bridges over deep creeks, yields in these zones being higher than on the upper edges of the swamps.

The work of the Veterinary Department has resulted in a great increase in cattle which are used for manuring the sorghum farms and maize plots near the villages.

AGRICULTURE

Groundnuts

The Gambian farmer remains largely dependent for his cash on groundnuts of which the total purchases (unshelled) by the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board for the season 1953—54 were 57,036 tons and in 1954—55, 57,995 tons. The price was unchanged at £32 per ton throughout the period. The net sums received by the farmers in the years 1953—54 and 1954—55 after repaying seednut advances were £1,825,152 and £1,854,740 respectively. The crop year runs from June to May of the following year ; seed is planted in June—July, the crop is harvested in October—November, and nuts are threshed and marketed from December to March. There are no plantations or estates. The crop is raised entirely by African farmers under a system of shifting cultivation. The yield per acre varies considerably, but is estimated to average between 600 to 700 lbs.

An important feature of agricultural life in the territory is the seasonal immigrants who visit the Gambia for the express purpose of growing groundnuts. During the year 1954, 11,410, and during 1955, 9,648 of these "strange farmers" visited the Protectorate and contributed to the crop. These men come from neighbouring French territories and, after raising and selling a crop of groundnuts, return to their homes. This movement is substantial and results to a great extent from the relative abundance and cheaper price of consumer goods in the Gambia as compared with the conditions which prevail in the countries from which they come. Considerable variations occur in the forms under which the immigrants work, but the general pattern is always the same. The landlord supplies board, lodging and land, in return for which the "strange farmer" works a certain number of days for the landlord, depending on the custom of the district ; a cash payment is sometimes agreed upon as well.

The crop is bought by approved traders purchasing groundnuts on behalf of the respective Licensed Buying Agents of the Marketing Board. It is transported to the trading stations by donkey, lorry or canoe and thence by powered river craft and lighters, and by lorries, to various transit ports between Bathurst and Kuntaur, where it is loaded direct into ocean-going vessels.

Since 1949, when the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board was established, all groundnuts and palm kernels have been purchased by the Board from the producers and marketed to the best advantage. During 1953 arrangements were made by the Board with local millers for the use of their decorticating plant, and the entire crop of unshelled nuts handled at the Bathurst transit port, amounting to 17,706 tons, was decorticated prior to shipment. Subsequently the Marketing Board placed contracts for the erection of decorticating plants at Kuntaur and Kaur and a total of 36,769 tons of unshelled nuts from the 1954—55 crop was decorticated, since it proved possible to market decorticated groundnuts from the Gambia at more favourable prices.

Produce inspection is carried out by the Agricultural Department and the staff of the Marketing Board at the appointed Buying Stations, where all nuts must be passed through rotary screens for cleaning before purchase. The Groundnuts (Standard of Quality) Ordinance was enacted in 1952 and its effect has been reflected in the improved quality of the nuts purchased by the Board during the past few years.

In the Western Division and parts of the Central Division a serious outbreak of Rosette Disease in 1954 greatly affected the groundnut crop in these areas ; many late sown crops were so unproductive that they were abandoned, and early sowings produced greatly reduced yields.

Other Export Products

Palm kernels are also exported. The Marketing Board purchased 1,830 tons during the 1953—54 season as against 1,690 tons in the

previous season and 1,506 tons during the subsequent season 1954—55. The price paid to the producer remained at £30 per ton during the period under review, while production showed a marked improvement over the pre-war maximum of 871 tons in 1939.

A number of hand and power driven palm kernel cracking machines were introduced during the period under review.

In addition to the above oilseeds, there was a small export trade in hides and beeswax. (See p. 19).

Crops for Local Consumption.

The principal crops for local consumption are sorghum and millet (*Pennisetum spp.*), cassava, maize and beans (legumes). With the exception of swamp rice, these crops are grown on the upland soils, sorghum and millet forming a crop rotation with the main cash crop, groundnuts. Cassava, maize and beans are produced on a smaller "back-yard" or compound scale and are seldom grown for sale. As only limited facts are available it is not possible to estimate with accuracy the yields of these crops which vary considerably according to the level of soil fertility.

In former years the Gambian farmer, in concentrating on the groundnut crop, neglected food production, and as a result the Colony was far from self-supporting in this respect. Latterly, the continuing efforts of Government officers have brought home to him the necessity of being self-sufficient in food, and more interest is now being shown in increased cultivation of subsistence crops. In addition new areas are being opened up in the riverine swamps for rice cultivation.

Rice

Among the principal food crops grown, the most spectacular increase in local production has centred upon swamp rice. The earlier eagerness of the people to take advantage of schemes aimed at increasing rice production has been well maintained. The construction of access causeways from the upland into the rice swamp land and mangrove fringing the river has continued. Tractor ploughing by the Department, under contract terms of 30s. per acre plus 25s. per acre for further discing, has made steady progress. A little short of 200 acres were mechanically cultivated in 1953 and this acreage increased to over 800 acres in 1954 and 1,500 acres in 1955. Although the area under cultivation both by machine and by hand has increased, the production per acre of paddy shows considerable room for improvement. Reasonably reliable estimates of yields are as follows :

| | <i>Paddy</i> <i>Average lbs. per acre</i> |
|---|--|
| Low-lying upland : broadcast | 800 |
| Low-lying upland : transplanted rice | 1,000 |
| Cleared mangrove and grassland swamp : transplanted rice | 1,200 |

The Agricultural Department and the Gambia Rice Farm have continued to pursue experiments with a number of imported varieties of rice and promising high-yielding varieties are already being distributed to local growers. At the end of 1955 a rice specialist from India was appointed to introduce improved cultural techniques aimed at raising rice yields.

The processing of the crop is still carried out by hand, but the Department is experimenting with mobile rice threshers and hulling machinery.

Soil Fertility Research

Investigations into the problems of soil fertility resulting in the low level of production on the sandy upland soils of the territory have continued. Research into the nutrient requirements of various upland crops has suggested that a number of minor elements, in addition to the major ones, are limiting factors of crop growth. In addition to a deficiency of plant nutrients there is a serious lack of organic material in the upland soils and the production of compost has been under investigation for several years. In 1953 trials were begun, using a mixture of municipal refuse and night soil from Bathurst, together with groundnut shell. The composted material was of only limited value however, owing to the high percentage of inert material present, including broken glass, which rendered the compost unsuitable for handling. More recently a process using night soil and groundnut shell has been introduced with very promising results. Although transport costs confine the use of this material to within 10 to 15 miles of the compost factory site, it is in great demand and the Department is now investigating the fortification of groundnut shell with artificial fertilisers. Application of the compost is at present confined to the low-lying upland rice swamps, but with an estimated annual production of 15,000 tons of groundnut shell there is every possibility of applying compost to upland crops, and trials on these lines have already begun.

Events Effecting Production

During the period under review two events affected agricultural production adversely. A serious outbreak of Rosette disease has already been mentioned (see p. 24) ; the disease, which is caused by a virus, varies in incidence from year to year, and in 1954 it was particularly severe in the Western half of the territory, where many farms were abandoned early in the season and the yield of others suffered serious reduction. In 1955, floods occurred and, although less serious than those in 1951, a considerable area of land under cultivation was damaged and both swamp rice and upland crops were totally destroyed, notably in the upper reaches of the river.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The administrative organisation has been changed during the period and now consists solely of a Department of Agriculture, with no

Development or Fisheries Sections. The authorised establishment of the department, showing the number of officers in post at the end of 1955 was as follows :

| | <i>Establishment</i> | <i>Posts Filled</i> |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| Director | 1 | 1 |
| 4 Agricultural Officers | 4 | 3 |
| 1 Agricultural Mechanic | 1 | 1 |
| 1 Manager Experimental Station | 1 | 1 |
| 1 Assistant Manager Experimental Station | 1 | 1 |
| 1 Tractor Ploughing Officer | 1 | 1 |
| 1 Agricultural Superintendent | 1 | 1 |

Soil Research

| | |
|--|----|
| 1 Agronomist | 1 |
| 2 Soil Scientists | 1 |
| 30 Agricultural Assistants, Instructors and Learners | 23 |

Although no provision is made within the department for the appointment of an entomologist, considerable assistance has been received from the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology and the Pest Infestation Laboratory.

A member of the Institute's Pool of Entomologists arrived in the Gambia in May 1955 and was expected to finish his investigations into the pre-harvest insect pests of groundnuts by the end of 1956. Investigations into the control of insect pests infesting harvested groundnuts have been undertaken during the period under review by arrangement with the Director of the Pest Infestation Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The degree of damage caused by insects to stored groundnuts in the Gambia can reach very serious proportions. Infestation of unshelled nuts (of which between 6,000 and 7,000 tons are stored annually for seed purposes) by *Caryedon fuscus* can be reduced to a negligible level by the application of suitable insecticides (5 per cent D.D.T. or 1 per cent Lindane) within the prescribed health limitations. The major damage to decorticated nuts by *Tribolium castaneum* can best be prevented by rapid shipment following decortication, and as a result of this work, Government is to consider the introduction of legislation to give legal backing to the recommendations recently submitted.

FORESTRY

Steady progress was maintained during the two years under review, notwithstanding the difficulty of maintaining continuity of operation with the small staff available.

Legislation of 1954 created 18 new Forest Parks, so adding 35,698 acres ($55\frac{3}{4}$ sq. mls.) to the forest estate, bringing the total of such reservations to 66 gazetted areas containing 84,135 acres (131.46 sq. mls.) in all. The ratio of proclaimed forest to total land areas of the Gambia thus rose to 3.3 per cent. Exploration and tentative demarcation continued in early 1955, but were then unavoidably interrupted for lack of staff.

From a tentative classification of forest types it was estimated that

there exist about $131\frac{1}{2}$ square miles of mediocre woodland in Forest Parks established by Native Authorities in the Protectorate, together with 1,039 square miles of remnant tree savannah and bush, plus 234 square miles of riparian mangrove. There is thus still a considerable field for the extension of reservation, subject only to the will of Native Authorities.

Afforestation programmes absorbed 21,800 plants and cuttings of hardwood species, so bringing the total area of existing plantations to about 380 acres.

Some interest in saw-milling was evinced by two concerns during 1955, but it remained to be seen whether it would develop. Meantime, hand-sawyers continued the production of mahogany timber on a small scale.

Forest industry, only just emerging, has yet to be developed and organised, having regard to various opportunities that seemingly exist for lucrative enterprise—as, for example, bee-keeping. First attention, however, focuses upon timber production and plans are being formulated for the adequate control of existing and potential lumbering undertakings, notwithstanding that existing stands of merchantable timber are so small and scattered that little more than sporadic exploitation can be contemplated for some time to come.

Current marketing of timber is accordingly of trifling extent and thus far has consisted merely of supply by hand-sawyers to a small agency in Bathurst, which conducts sales of timber and charcoal as a side line. Prices paid to producers have been currently in the region of 12s. per cubic foot for unseasoned mahogany, whilst occasional supply of Rhun Palms (*Borassus aethiopium*, Mart.), as round timber, commanded prices averaging about 31s. per stem; charcoal was priced around 2s. 6d. per cwt., delivered in Bathurst.

Staff and Finance

Salaried staff of the Forestry Department at the close of 1955 comprised one Forestry Adviser, one Clerical Assistant, three Forest Rangers and three Forest Guards.

Expenditure of Government funds for the two years amounted to £3,800 for Personal Emoluments, and £4,320 under Other Charges. Additionally, and during the same period, District Authorities contributed £890 for staff and £1,181 for protective operations.

Revenue collections, mainly effected by District Authorities, amounted to £1,262 for the two year period. There is reason to believe, however, that a considerable margin of timber and fuel exploitation escapes payment of royalty, and this is under investigation.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The Veterinary Department

In 1952 the Veterinary Departments of Sierra Leone and the Gambia were reorganised as separate departments. This arrangement

permits more convenient control of administration and finance and is generally more satisfactory than the previous system. The permanent headquarters in the Gambia is at Abuko, close to the boundary of the Colony on the main road from Bathurst to the Protectorate. The buildings, which were erected with assistance provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, comprise an office and laboratory with stores for these; premises for experimental animals; a workshop garage and stores, with housing for senior and junior headquarters staff. A pipe-borne water supply is available and electricity is supplied from the mains service. The station is conveniently situated for communication with Government headquarters and with sea, river and air transport, and it is equipped to deal with the current requirements of the country's livestock, while leaving room for extension within the present grounds.

The establishment comprises a Principal Veterinary Officer, a Veterinary Officer and a Laboratory Superintendent in the Senior Service. Junior Service officers include a Senior Veterinary Assistant, one Veterinary Assistant Grade I, a Laboratory Assistant and four Veterinary Assistants Grade III, all of which are pensionable posts, with 16 senior and junior Veterinary Inspectors and suitable clerical and ancillary staff. Both the Veterinary Officer and Laboratory Superintendent are Gambians, in addition to all members of the junior grades. A noteworthy advance in recent years has been the recruitment by the District Authorities of men known as Cattle Guards, who receive a simple training for a minimum of one year, three quarters of it at headquarters and the remainder in the field. On completion of training they are posted back to the District Authorities, one man to three or more districts, to supplement the work of departmental officers and give early information on outbreaks of disease. Their salaries during and after training are paid by the District Authorities but their work is supervised by the Department.

Owing to the small size of the Department the policy is mainly concerned with the control of animal disease, but plans are under consideration for the formation of a veterinary improvement scheme headed by an officer to be specially appointed.

NUMBERS OF LIVESTOCK

Figures for the last census of livestock are as follows :

| | <i>Central Division</i> | <i>Western Division</i> | <i>MacCarthy Island Division</i> | <i>Upper River Division</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cattle . . . | 29,249 | 26,183 | 25,900 | 41,145 | 122,477 |
| Sheep . . . | 17,357 | 9,427 | 11,494 | 12,250 | 50,528 |
| Goats . . . | 27,204 | 16,645 | 16,241 | 15,378 | 75,468 |
| Pigs . . . | 43 | 2,532 | 48 | — | 2,623 |
| Horses . . . | 20 | 6 | 22 | 161 | 209 |
| Donkeys . . . | 678 | 488 | 646 | 2,495 | 4,307 |
| Poultry . . . | 42,616 | 104,728 | 36,361 | 43,424 | 227,129 |

Production

The average number of livestock (in round figures) slaughtered per annum is as follows :

| | <i>Cattle</i> | <i>Sheep</i> (a) | <i>Pigs</i> | <i>Goats</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Colony Area including Bathurst . | 3,000 | 400 | 1,000 | 700 |
| Western Division | 300 | 80 | 10 | 500 |
| MacCarthy Island Division | 700 | 100 | — | 200 |
| Central Division | 400 | 100 | — | 80 |

(a) The figures for sheep are unreliable as many more are killed privately.

A large amount of milk is sold in Western Division for consumption in Bathurst. Hides and skins are rough-cured by firms in Bathurst and exported. The average quantity per annum amounts to 37 tons. Some hides also find their way to Portuguese Guinea.

FISHING

The seas off the Atlantic coast provide excellent fishing grounds which are worked by fishermen from the coastal villages and from Bathurst, and from as far afield as the Senegal and Portuguese and French Guinea. In the main the fishing canoes depend upon oar and wind, but experiments in using outboard engines have met with sufficient success to warrant making loans for the purchase of engines to be fitted to canoes.

There is a fairly well organised system of distribution by bicycle and lorry from the fishing villages to Bathurst and inland for a distance of some seventy miles. The fish smoking and drying industry is well established in the Kombo districts on a small scale, and considerable quantities of cured fish are not only supplied to Bathurst and the Protectorate but also to Freetown.

The local fishermen have shown interest in the activities of the Co-operative Department and it is hoped that both fishing and marketing may be organised in the Colony area on co-operative lines to the mutual benefit of producers and consumers.

Up-river, fishermen from the Senegal predominate. Their large ocean-going canoes may be seen at all times of the year, but especially in the trade season when they import salt which, with the fish they catch, is sold or exchanged for rice, millet and other grains for export to the Senegal.

The fishing school at Genieri has had some success in training local men in fishing techniques and the use, manufacture and repair of nets, lines, and traps. The school has now been moved to Sankwia nearer the Divisional headquarters, to facilitate closer supervision.

SHIPBUILDING

In spite of the progress in mechanisation, an old established cutter building industry is still followed by Gambian shipwrights. The cutters, which are all sailing vessels without auxiliary power, are substantially

built of timber throughout. The design of these craft appears to be of Portuguese origin and probably dates from the period of Portuguese influence in the Gambia around the 17th and early 18th centuries. The craft are distinctive because of their excessive sheer which is unusual in vessels designed for inland water operation. Many also carry an unusual topsail which is not seen outside the Mediterranean and is probably of early Portuguese origin.

All cutters built in the Gambia have exactly the same lines and are merely scaled up or down to the required tonnage.

The number of shipwrights still engaged in cutter building has dropped considerably in recent years, but since 1945 a total of 17 new vessels have been built.

In addition to cutter building a number of shipwrights continue to build canoes at Barra. These Barra sailing canoes are again distinctive in design. They vary in size in the same manner as the cutters but are generally about 40—50 feet in length. The larger craft carry two sprit-sails.

MINING

In 1953, large deposits of ilmenite were discovered on the old storm beaches along the Atlantic coast. Legislation governing the gaining of minerals was provided in the Minerals Ordinance, 1953, and the Minerals Rules, 1954. Prospecting rights are held by a subsidiary of a large United Kingdom firm which has, during the period under review, proved the extent of the reserves and erected quarters for staff, mining and treating machinery, ancillary buildings and several miles of road and light railway. It was expected that mining operations would begin in 1956.

Investigations have also been undertaken to discover whether workable reserves of oil are present in the Gambia ; the results of these have not yet been made public.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The Government has long been conscious of the value of a well-organised co-operative movement and, accordingly, made arrangements for two members of the junior service to be trained as Co-operative Inspectors at Ibadan, Nigeria. One of these was subsequently employed in the formation of societies in the Colony area under the supervision of the Colony Commissioner. As a result there are now four registered societies in Bathurst, comprising two societies for the bulk purchase of materials for local dyers, a Weavers' Society with similar objects, a Butchers' Cattle Purchasing Society and a Cutter Owners' Society whose objects include thrift and loan facilities. The total membership of all these is 74.

In addition, some farmers in Kombo St. Mary were organised into a groundnut Marketing Group in 1954 and profitably marketed a small

quantity of their crop. As a result four groups were formed for the 1955—56 season and there was every prospect that the tonnage marketed would be trebled in this season. These groups are still in the experimental stage and have not yet been registered. There are also two unregistered Women Petty Traders Thrift and Credit Societies.

A qualified Co-operative Officer was recruited in October 1955 and is now engaged on a plan of development which includes staff training.

Chapter 7 : Social Services

EDUCATION

Administration

The Headquarters of the Education Department is in Bathurst. It is administered, in accordance with the Education Ordinance and Regulations which came into effect on the 1st January 1947, by the Director of Education assisted, in the Colony, by an Education Officer and a Woman Education Officer in charge of infant and female education. Two Education Officers are stationed in the Protectorate, of whom one is headmaster of Armitage School at Georgetown.

The main objects of the Ordinance were to regularise the arrangements under which the Government, in 1945, assumed responsibility for all primary education in Bathurst, and reconstitution of the Board of Education to allow adequate representation of Protectorate opinion. The Board, which advises the Government on educational policy throughout the territory, comprises, under the Ordinance, four *ex officio* and 12 nominated unofficial members including one representative each of the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions, the Muslim Community, the Legislative Council, and the Gambia teachers. There are two Protectorate members and four others, of whom two represent the interests of female education. The *ex officio* members are the Director of Education, who is Chairman of the Board, the Director of Medical Services, the Senior Commissioner and the Director of Agriculture. While a Minister of Education and Welfare held office during 1955, the representative of the Legislative Council did not sit.

Education statistics are given on p. 36.

Education in the Colony

Primary education in Bathurst is the responsibility of the Government, though, by the terms of the 1945 Agreement, the schools retain their religious grouping and each is administered by a Management Committee, established under the Ordinance, which is representative

of the appropriate religious authority and the department. These schools are :

| | |
|--------|--|
| 1 each | Anglican/Methodist boys' primary, girls' primary and infant School ; |
| 1 each | Roman Catholic boys' primary and infant School ; |
| 1 each | Moslem mixed primary and infant School. |

In addition the Overage School, which is managed by the Government and was originally for children too old to enter the ordinary primary schools, is now in effect an extra primary school for Moslem pupils. During 1954 it became necessary to make temporary arrangements for the accommodation of further children pending the erection of buildings which will house a new primary school. This school, for which assistance has been obtained under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, is expected to open early in 1957.

The primary schools offer facilities for education to Standard VII and the average ages of entry and leaving are seven and fourteen respectively. Fees of 1s. per month are payable in respect of each pupil during term, but there is provision for the remission of fees in approved cases.

During 1954 the Anglican authority requested the dissolution of its formal partnership with the Methodists in the field of primary education and this step was under consideration at the end of the period. In Kombo St. Mary, the rural part of the Colony on the mainland, there are two Government schools and a Roman Catholic Mission school which does not receive assistance from Government funds.

The Government also maintains a Domestic Science Centre for girls and an Arts and Crafts Centre attended by boys in Standards V, VI, and VII of the primary schools. There is also an aided kindergarten department attached to the Methodist Girls' High School. A small Trade Training Centre accepts boys from the primary schools for training as masons and carpenters. Plans have been approved for the expansion of this establishment to enable training to be given in metal work and mechanical trades. A Clerical School is run by the Government, primarily for the training of junior civil servants.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst ; both the Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions have separate schools for boys and girls which are controlled by the religious authorities but receive substantial grants from the Government. In each school the curriculum takes a child as far as the School Certificate examination. The Bathurst School of Science, which serves all four secondary schools, was opened in 1947 in a building owned by the Methodist Mission under quadripartite management of the three Missions and Government. Expenditure on staff is met from public funds but the Missions are responsible for recurrent costs. During 1955 plans to extend the curriculum were discussed and additional funds made available by the Government. Owing to subsequent divergence of opinion concerning the means of carrying out the proposals, however, the necessary structural altera-

tions of the building have yet to be undertaken. At the end of 1955 the staff consisted of one female graduate teacher and one qualified female non-graduate trained in the United Kingdom.

There is no post-secondary education in the Gambia and persons requiring higher education proceed to institutions elsewhere in West Africa or to the United Kingdom.

Education in the Protectorate

Most Protectorate schools are owned by District Authorities and staffed by Government teachers posted for duty in the Protectorate. The Authorities are responsible for capital costs, though loans are obtainable from the Farmers' Fund, and for recurrent charges save for the salaries of qualified teachers which are paid by the Government. During 1955 a scheme for the payment of grants in aid of the salaries of qualified teachers in Mission schools was approved and put into force. The grants are awarded subject to certain conditions, including the willingness of the appropriate District Authority to make a small contribution to the cost of equipment and the maintenance of satisfactory standards.

At the outset of the post-war expansion of Protectorate education, an endeavour was made to ensure even spacing of schools throughout the territory. Public appreciation of education varies widely from village to village, however, and initial enthusiasm is not always maintained. In consequence, a number of schools were sited where there was little genuine demand. This policy has been abandoned and attention is now concentrated on communities where a favourable response can be expected.

At present the primary schools offer a four-year course, accepting pupils of both sexes at the age of eight. The number of girls in the rural schools, though still small, increases from year to year and now forms a significant proportion of the whole. Teaching is carried out in the vernacular and English enters the curriculum as a subject of study in the second year of the course.

Armitage School at Georgetown, which is a boarding establishment, offers a secondary modern course for up to one hundred boys. It is intended to expand the school and provide new buildings as soon as circumstances permit. In the meanwhile, a number of pupils from Georgetown and, in some cases, from the Protectorate primary schools, complete their education in Bathurst.

Teacher Training

Prior to 1949 all Gambian teachers received their training in Sierra Leone or the Gold Coast. In that year a Protectorate training centre providing a one-year course for 30 men was opened at Georgetown in MacCarthy Island Division. Plans for expansion were under discussion when, in 1951, the Colonial Development Corporation

poultry project at Yundum in Western Division was closed, and the buildings not retained for the experimental farm were acquired by the Government for conversion to a Teacher Training College to be developed on lines similar to the well known Jeanes School in Kenya. The move from Georgetown to Yundum was undertaken in 1952, and thereafter students were transported to the College daily from Bathurst, 15 miles away. In 1953 the course was opened to women students and others selected for posts in Bathurst primary schools and temporary arrangements were made for male students to reside at Yundum pending conversion of former farm buildings to residential quarters. This was completed by the Public Works Department in 1955 at a total cost, including technical and domestic equipment, of approximately £40,000 provided by grant from the Farmers' Fund. Provision of residential accommodation for women students is being made in two former senior staff quarters about half a mile from the College and it was expected that this would be occupied in the near future.

For several years it has been found difficult to recruit sufficient young men and women to the teaching profession and a high proportion of teachers, particularly in Bathurst, are unqualified. In 1954 the course at Yundum was extended by a year in accordance with a recommendation of Miss Freda Gwilliam, Assistant Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the possibility of further extension at a later date is envisaged. The staff position, which had also delayed development of the College, improved during the period under review, when four of the five senior posts, including that of Principal, were filled.

Some experienced teachers were selected in 1954 and 1955 to attend one-year training courses in the United Kingdom, while four other Gambians were at various stages of university courses in arts and science subjects prior to appointment as graduate teachers.

In-service training courses have been held annually during the long vacation and in 1955 a number of men who attended the one year course at Georgetown returned for a further period of training at Yundum. In an endeavour to attract more entrants to the College a higher rate of allowance has recently been granted to students at the College and the financial position of a qualified teacher on appointment improved *vis a vis* entrants to other branches of the Government service. It is not yet possible to assess the effect of these measures.

At the end of 1955 it was decided to separate Yundum College from the Education Department and to establish it as an independent entity administered by the Principal under a Board of Governors.

The recommendations for the introduction of further whole and part-time vocational training courses in the Gambia made by a Working Party set up in 1953 to survey the field of employment in various trades have been accepted, with minor amendments, for implementation as soon as possible.

Schools, Pupils and Teachers, End 1954

| | No. of Primary Schools | Pupils | | | No. of Secondary Schools | Pupils | | | No. of Teachers | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | | Boys | Girls | Total | | Boys | Girls | Total | Primary | Secondary |
| Protectorate Colony. | 31 11 | 787 2,513 | 132 1,028 | 919 3,541 | 1 4 | 94 344 | — 183 | 94 527 | 47 110 | 6 25 |
| Total | 42 | 3,300 | 1,160 | 4,460 | 5 | 438 | 183 | 623 | 157 | 31 |

*Estimated Expenditure on Education in 1954 and 1955,
Protectorate and Colony*

| Year | Personal Emoluments | | | | | | Other Charges | | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| | Admi- nistra- tion £ | Tea- cher train- ing £ | Voca- tional train- ing- £ | Secon- dary £ | Elc- men- tary £ | Total £ | Admi- nistra- tion £ | Tea- chr train- ing £ | Voca- tional train- ing £ | Secon- dary £ | Elc- men- tary £ | Total £ |
| 1954 | 8,106 | 4,127 | 2,285 | 5,464 | 21,441 | 41,423 | 1,827 | 9,055 | 2,547 | 14,222 | 13,692 | 41,343 |
| 1955 | 9,957 | 6,048 | 2,799 | 5,401 | 23,980 | 48,185 | 1,817 | 6,805 | 2,607 | 16,175 | 15,563 | 42,967 |

HEALTH

During four or five months of the year the Gambia experiences a delightful climate, particularly in the coastal areas bordering the Atlantic Ocean, but everywhere the low and somewhat erratic rainfall is liable to create agricultural and economic difficulties. The low-lying and swampy nature of the terrain, allied with high temperatures, produce conditions favourable for the persistence and propogation of important disease vectors, notably mosquitoes and tsetse flies, while the long dry season encourages the spread of such diseases as smallpox and cerebro-spinal meningitis.

The boundaries of the territory follow, for the most part, a twisting line parallel to the course of the river Gambia at a distance of seven miles from it without relation to the ethnography of the region. The health problems of the Gambia are, therefore, indivisible from those of the surrounding French territory and demand effort and co-operation on both sides of the border, where malaria, smallpox, leprosy and probably yellow fever, to name the most important diseases, remain endemic. This situation received recognition at the Anglo-French and International Medical Conferences held at Accra and Dakar in 1946 and 1951 respectively, where measures to ensure co-operation were unanimously adopted.

In 1954 a sample survey was undertaken by an officer of the Medical Research Council Laboratories at Fajara and the Medical Officer of Health to determine the incidence of trepanematoses and leprosy in the Gambia. The overall incidence of leprosy was found to be 2.4 per cent and the disease widespread throughout the territory.

By inference there are, therefore, over 6,000 lepers in the Protectorate. It is of interest to note that Ross, in 1947, found an incidence of 2.5 per cent. The problem of leprosy control was subsequently discussed with representatives of the World Health Organisation during their visit to the territory, and plans for remedial measures based on outpatient treatment, using Dapsone under the supervision of a Medical Officer, have been formulated.

The survey also revealed the incidence of two types of trepanemal diseases. One was classical yaws ; the other showed many points of resemblance to the so called endemic syphilis of Bosnia and Bechuana-land, the disease originally described by Hudson (Bejel). All cases were confined to one tribe. In general, however, trepanemal diseases were found to be declining to a marked degree. New and infectious cases were rare, while former prevalence was indicated by frequent inactive signs in adults. The availability of early treatment at the Protectorate dispensaries is considered significant in this regard. A few isolated pockets of yaws and the other disease described above remain, which could be eradicated by penicillin therapy. It is interesting to note in this respect that the Gambia, with its intermediate climate lying between the markedly tropical zone to the south where classical yaws is common, and the arid zone of North Africa where endemic syphilis is common, appears able to support both diseases.

Vital Statistics

Bathurst is the only place where the registration of births and deaths can be considered effective, the registration of deaths providing the more reliable figures. The following vital statistics have been recorded in the town during the past five years :

BATHURST

| | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Mid-year popula- lation estimate (a) | 19,602 | 19,733 | 19,843 | 20,097 | 20,580 |
| Live Births | 780 | 710 | 735 | 669 | 770 |
| Birth rate per 1,000 population | 39.8 | 36.0 | 37.6 | 33.3 | 37.4 |
| Deaths .. | 353 | 298 | 384 | 343 | 350 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population | 18.0 | 15.1 | 19.4 | 17.1 | 17.0 |
| Deaths under one year .. | 91 | 61 | 78 | 77 | 71 |
| Infant Mortality rate .. | 116.6 | 85.9 | 106.1 | 115.1 | 94.8 |
| Still Births | 52 | 72 | 46 | 44 | 40 |

(a) 1951—Census figures ; all others, mean of end-year estimates.

Staff and Facilities

The headquarters of the Medical and Health Departments are in Bathurst. A Medical Officer is stationed at Bansang, in MacCarthy Island Division, and Nursing or Health Sisters at various other centres in the Protectorate.

A chain of health centres and dispensaries is maintained throughout the territory. The latter are operated by resident dispensers who, in some cases, are also responsible for sub-dispensaries where they attend on specified days. Health inspectors and midwives are also stationed at suitable points in the Protectorate and Colony to provide a general coverage of their respective services. The departmental establishment, under the Director of Medical Services, is as follows :

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Medical Officer of Health | 8 Nursing Sisters (Medical) |
| 7 Medical Officers | 2 Nursing Sisters (Health) |
| 1 Dental Surgeon | 1 Senior Health Superintendent |
| 1 Senior Nursing Sister | 3 Health Superintendents |

There are two general hospitals in the territory ; one the Victoria Hospital in Bathurst, and the other at Bansang in the Protectorate. The former, housed in new buildings opened in 1953, is now complete save for the childrens' ward. There have been no structural alterations to the 65-bed hospital at Bansang. There is also a Mental Hospital, a Home for the Infirm, a Tuberculosis Sanatorium, and a Leper Colony at Appatento near Bansang.

NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF HOSPITAL BEDS

| <i>Name and Location Of Hospital</i> | <i>General</i> | <i>Obstetric</i> | <i>Tuberculosis</i> | <i>Infectious</i> | <i>Mental</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|---|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|---|
| Victoria Hospital Bathurst . . . | 141 | 14 | — | — | — | Isolation wing and Children's Hospital have still to be opened |
| Bansang Hospital, MacCarthy Island Division . . . | 61 | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Sanatorium, Bathurst | — | — | 24 | — | — | — |
| Mental Hospital, Bathurst . . . | — | — | — | — | 24 | — |
| Home for Infirm, Bathurst . . . | 16 | — | — | 4 | — | — |

There are 19 health centres or dispensaries and 22 sub-dispensaries scattered throughout the Kombo and Protectorate, in addition to one dispensary, two sub-dispensaries and a mobile dispensary run by the Anglican Mission in the Upper River Division. A Maternity Health Centre was opened at Basse in 1952, and another is in operation at Mansakonko under the supervision of a Red Cross Nursing Sister as it has not yet proved possible to post a Medical Officer to this station.

Attendance Figures

During the past three years the following new cases and attendances have been reported from the total of 44 dispensaries and sub-dispensaries in the Colony and Protectorate :

| <i>Year</i> | <i>New Cases</i> | <i>Attendances</i> |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1953 : | 100,733 | 243,394 |
| 1954 : | 109,323 | 263,390 |
| 1955 : | 113,966 | 253,704 |

Maternity and child welfare clinics continue to do excellent work, and these services now extend throughout the Gambia.

The following attendances have been recorded during the past three years :

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Ante Natal Attendances</i> | <i>Child Welfare Attendances</i> | <i>Total Attendances</i> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1953 : | 14,658 | 61,645 | 76,303 |
| 1954 : | 16,061 | 63,345 | 79,406 |
| 1955 : | 13,860 | 66,462 | 80,322 |

Main Diseases and Research

Pulmonary tuberculosis is a major health problem, particularly in Bathurst. Treatment is given whenever practicable at the Sanatorium. Initially only male patients were admitted but a degree of expansion has been possible and nine beds are now available for females.

A continuous programme of vaccinations against smallpox and yellow fever has been carried out and no extensive outbreak of the former disease occurred during the period. There were 107 cases of smallpox in 1954 and approximately 30 in 1955, with very few deaths. A recent survey by Drs. MacNarman and Walker of the Yellow Fever Research Institute, Yaba, Nigeria, indicated that yellow fever does in fact occur in various parts of the Protectorate, although no cases have ever been reported.

A survey of schistosomiasis has been carried out with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The chief source of this disease is apparently the Upper River, with a few isolated pockets near to the Coast.

The Medical Research Council continued investigation into malaria, sickle cell traits and anaemia. Visiting workers also enjoy the use of the laboratories and much useful work was carried out on yellow fever, schistosomiasis, poliomyelitis and trypanosomiasis (see also Chapter 14).

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Bathurst

The town of Bathurst, now comprising nearly twenty thousand inhabitants, has developed on its present site during more than one hundred years. Observers commend the far sighted action of the original planners in creating broad streets on a regular plan which has facilitated the extensive programme of road construction and drainage installation undertaken in recent years. The streets of the oldest part of the town radiate from MacCarthy Square, an open space of some six acres maintained by the Bathurst Town Council, which is used as a playing field and forum for public functions. Other open spaces include the King George V playing field and the Box Bar Stadium at the Southern and North Western extremities.

Some overcrowding exists, particularly in the Southern and Western parts. The problem is created by the nature of St. Mary's Island on which Bathurst is built. Over three fourths of the island is swampland and it follows that the population, which has doubled in the past thirty years, has a very limited area at its disposal. Expansion is only possible by reclamation of swampland and it was not possible for the Government to contemplate such expansive works until Colonial Development and Welfare funds became available. In 1950 an area of approximately one and a half square miles of swampland was bunded ; of this, one third is used as a ponding area for drainage of the town during the rainy season, but the greater part awaits further reclamation for residential purposes.

A fully reclaimed area known as Crab Island, on the West side of the town, is now ready to be built upon and a plan has been approved for its development. It is over sixteen acres in extent and on it a school designed to accommodate 480 pupils is being built. In addition, the layout provides for five streets, eight open spaces and some fifty-eight building plots. A Colonial Development and Welfare grant of £17,500 has been secured for the implementation of this plan. Building plots in the new area will be allotted in accordance with a points system devised to ensure that, so far as possible, preference is given to those whose need is greatest.

Building Materials

In Bathurst the traditional building materials are "krinting"—plaited bamboo strips—and rhun palm scantlings. From the mature rhun, which is termite resistant, a rectangular frame is constructed and rigid mats of plaited bamboo affixed which, when plastered and washed over with "lasso," a lime manufactured locally from burnt and pulverised oyster and cockle shells, forms a presentable and hygienic structure. Split rhuns and corrugated iron sheets are used for roofing as the current building regulations prohibit the use of inflammable material in the town.

In the Protectorate, buildings are generally constructed from mud blocks, krinting and plaster or woven grass, with corrugated iron or thatched roofs, the latter of conical or pyramidal form, supported on frames of rhun or mangrove poles.

In both town and country substantial European style houses are erected when funds permit the owner to do so. These are usually single storeyed, raised two to four feet above ground level on rafts of mud plastered with cement. Cement block walls and corrugated iron roofs are popular.

Housing Loans Scheme

A Housing Loans Scheme has been operated for the benefit of Civil Servants for over seven years. Loans repayable over a period of years

may be made for the purchase or erection of buildings against mortgage of the property. During the past three years £16,047 has been lent in this way, £9,234 for building and £6,813 for the purchase of land. Houses built under this scheme must be of a substantial nature and approved design in compliance with the rules and conditions.

Building Regulations

During 1955 the Secretary of State's Housing Adviser visited the Gambia and in the light of his report it is intended to amend the Building Regulations at an early opportunity.

SOCIAL WELFARE

It is in Bathurst, where tribal organisation is weak or non-existent, that the need for organised social welfare work is greatest. In the Protectorate, the close-knit village communities provide security for the old, the disabled and the destitute, and a social atmosphere in which such evils as juvenile delinquency do not thrive. Even in Bathurst, the only major urban area in the territory, destitution is not a serious problem owing to the operation of the "extended family" system, which involves all adults in wide obligations.

In 1954 a socio-economic survey of Bathurst and the rural area of the Colony was made under the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme by Mr. C. O. van der Plas, a United Nations expert and formerly a distinguished Dutch administrator. He returned in 1955 for a year to continue his work and extend it into the Protectorate.

A Social Welfare Officer works in Bathurst and is mainly concerned with juvenile delinquency, probation work and the encouragement of youth clubs. He keeps in close touch with the various charitable organisations such as the Alec Patterson League, which concerns itself with helping released prisoners, the Gambia Branch of the Red Cross, and the boys' clubs, of which there are six run by voluntary effort.

In 1954 a Central Council of Youth Clubs was formed by voluntary effort to co-ordinate the activities of the boys' clubs and other youth organisations, and now has affiliated to it nine bodies, including the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. The Council was authorised to launch an appeal for a King George VI Memorial Fund which reached a total of £9,897 6s. 2d. provided in equal parts by public subscription and a Government contribution. From this fund the Council has built the King George VI Memorial Hall as a centre for youth clubs and also (with some additional financial assistance) a pavilion, with club rooms attached, on the King George V Memorial Ground. The Memorial Hall, containing a small gymnasium with a stage, three games rooms, and a committee room, has provided much needed accommodation for youth club activities.

A small home for the infirm and the destitute is maintained outside Bathurst by the Government with contributions from the Bathurst Town Council.

A sum of £250 is voted each year by the Government for the relief of the poor in Bathurst, and is disbursed by heads of religious bodies including the Imam of Bathurst, and by the Colony Commissioner.

The Juvenile Court set up under the Children's and Young Persons Ordinance, 1949, dealt with 21 cases in 1954 and 22 in 1955.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

DURING 1954 and 1955, 44 ordinances were enacted of which the following call for special comment :

1954

The Colony Elections Ordinance (No. 1 of 1954) replaces existing legislation governing the registration of electors and conduct of elections to the Legislative Council, Bathurst Town Council and the Kombo Saint Mary Rural Authority. It makes provision for a common electoral roll for all three elections, the issue of voters' cards and the identification of voters by thumbprints or photographs. It requires the payment of a deposit by candidates for election to the Legislative Council.

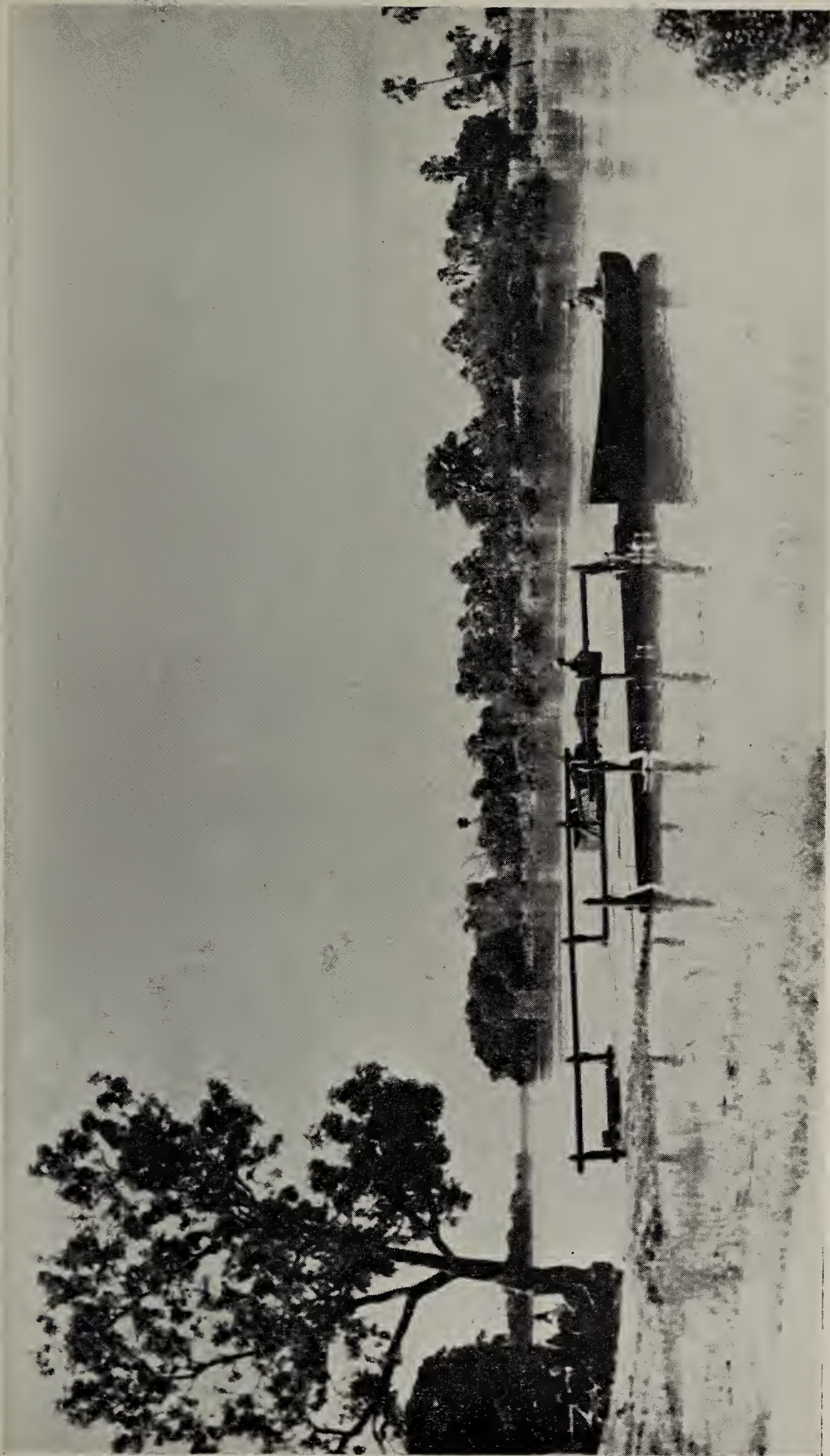
The Enemy Property Ordinance (No. 8 of 1954) makes provisions concerning things done in relation to enemy property in excess of powers conferred by the law relating to trading with the enemy and indemnifies the doer of such thing, if done in good faith, without curtailing the rights possessed by any other person to recover the property.

The Navigation and Pilotage Ordinance (No. 16 of 1954) brings the law in regard to lights to be carried by ships and the course to be steered in narrow channels into line with international Regulations accepted by the United Kingdom and enacted in United Kingdom legislation.

The Moneylenders Ordinance (No. 22 of 1954) replaces previous legislation relating to moneylenders and amongst other provisions, limits the interest chargeable on secured loans to 20% per annum ; that on unsecured loans to 48%.

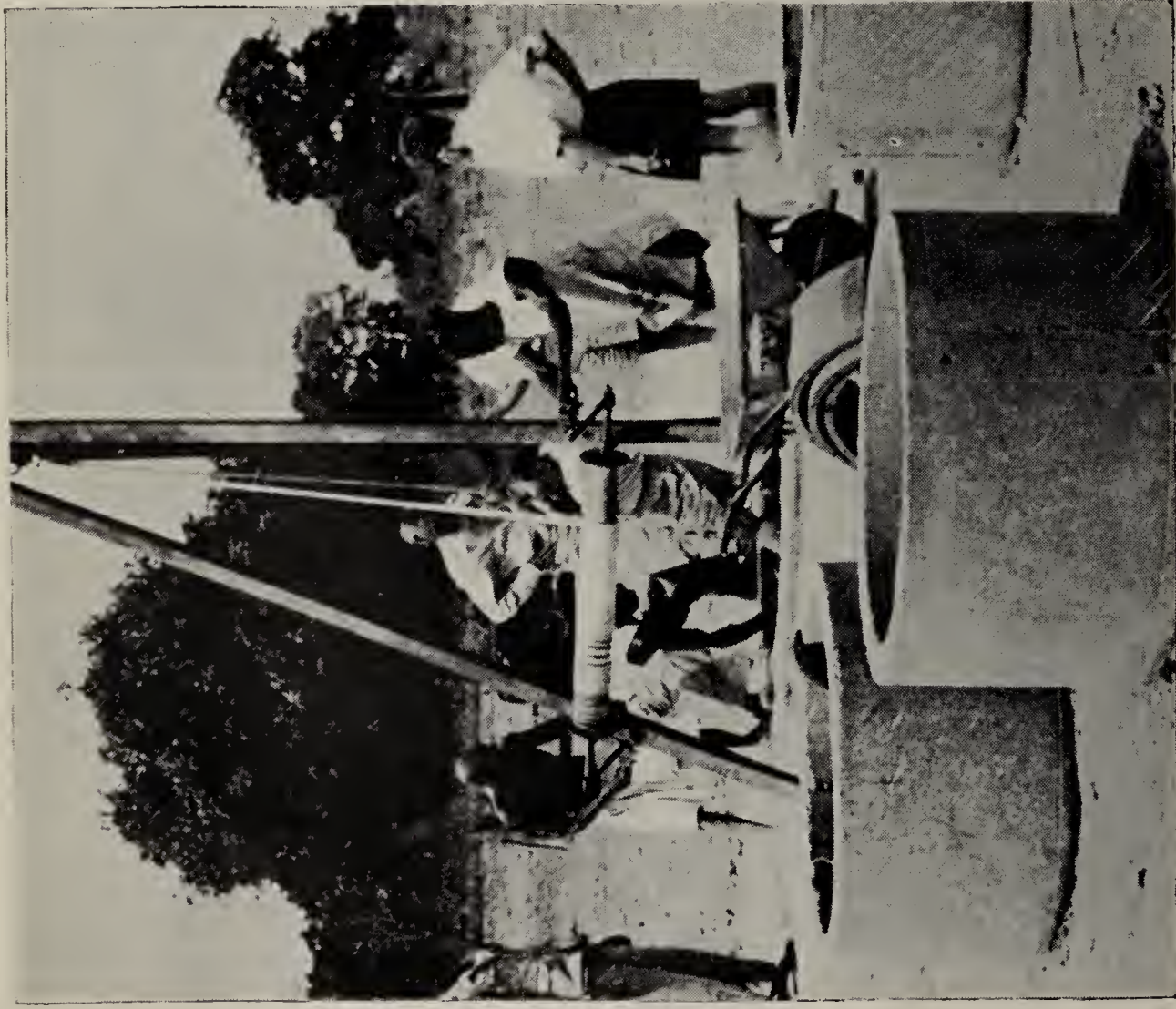
1955

The Cattle Marketing Ordinance (No. 1 of 1955) establishes a Cattle Marketing Board to assist in maintaining regular and sufficient meat supplies throughout the Gambia and to promote an export trade in meat.



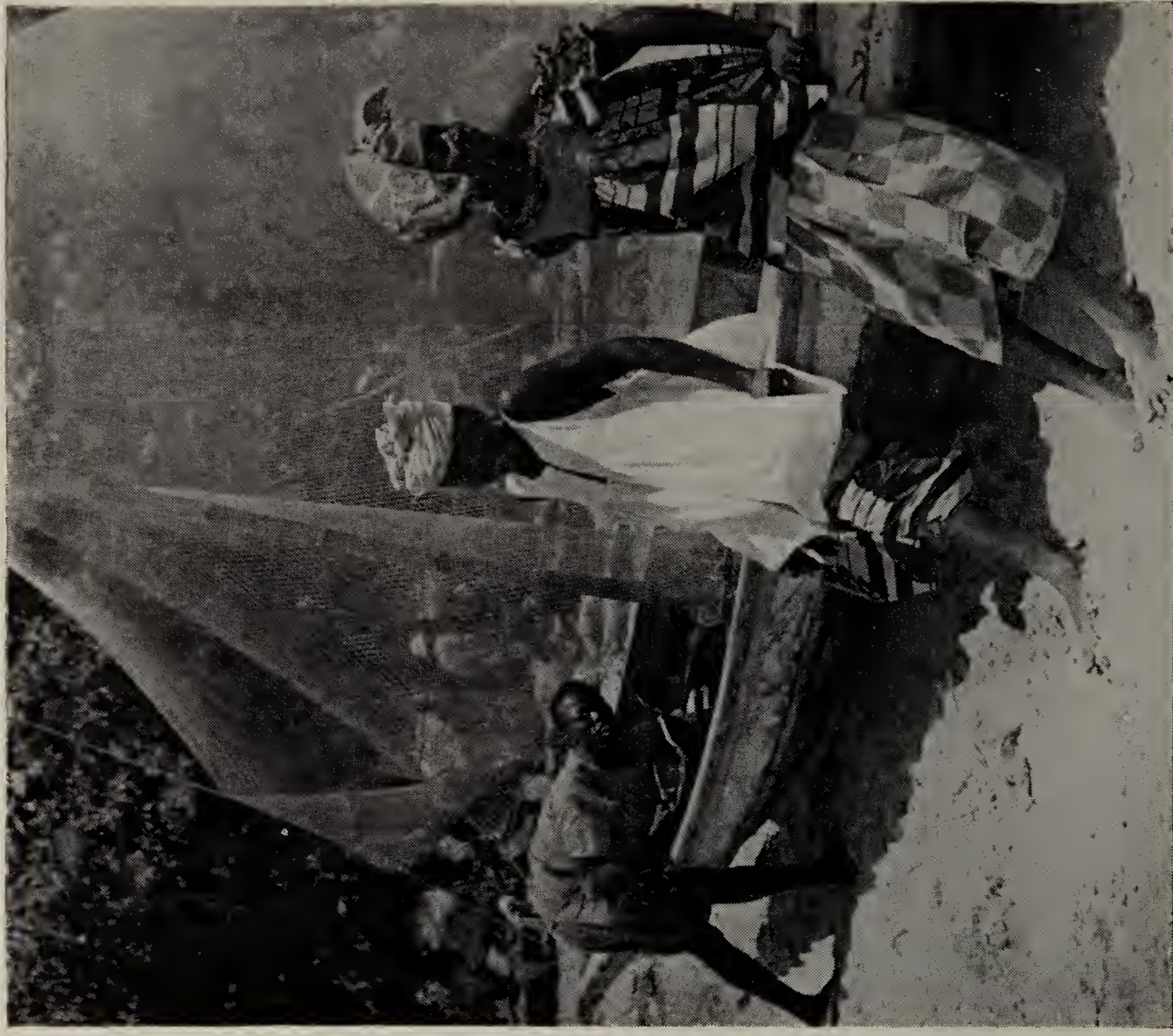
The River at Bansang.

[R. A. Webb]



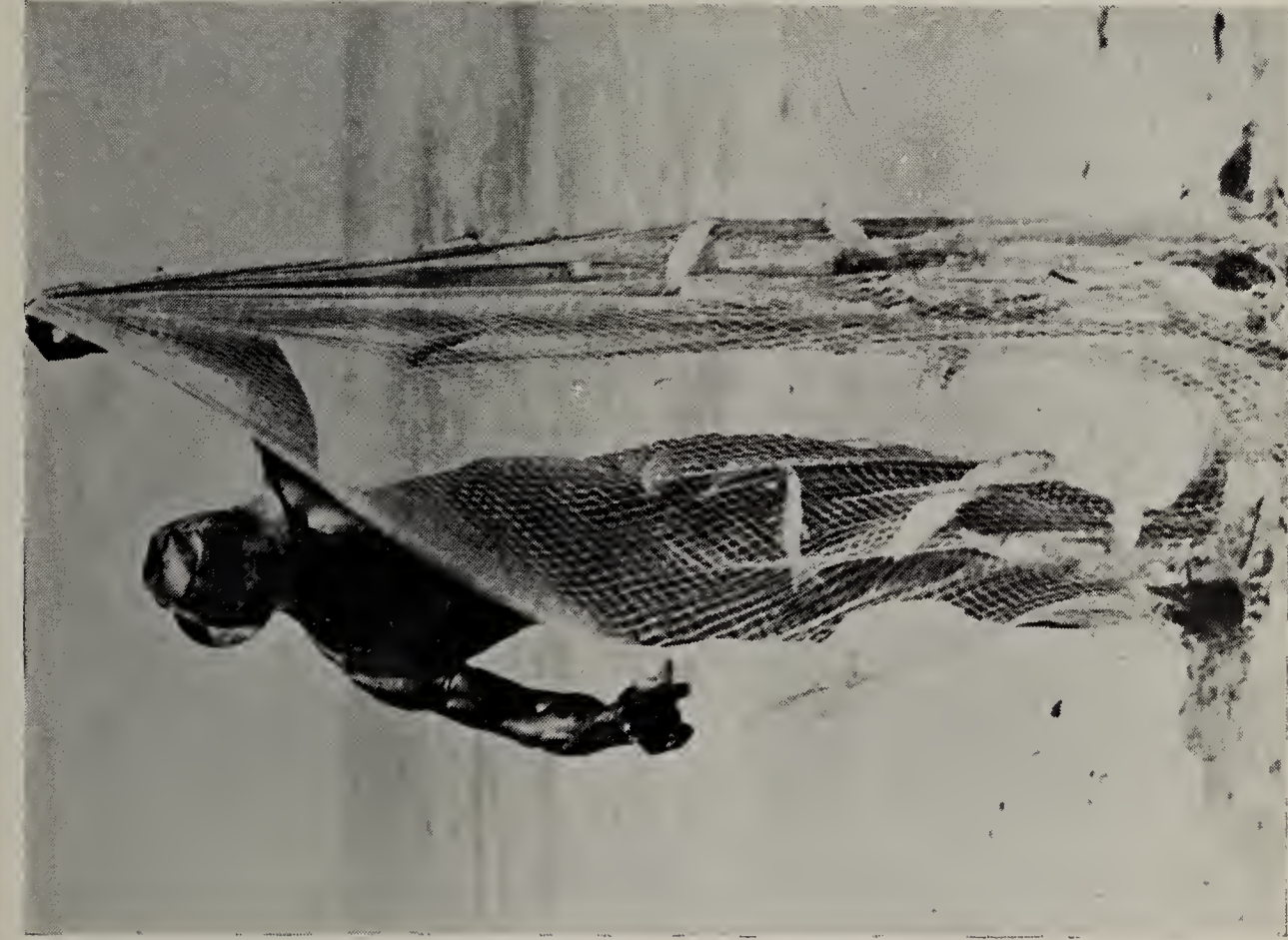
Sinking Wells, Upper River Division.

[R. A. Webb]



Fishing Canoe, Gunjur.

[R. A. Webb]



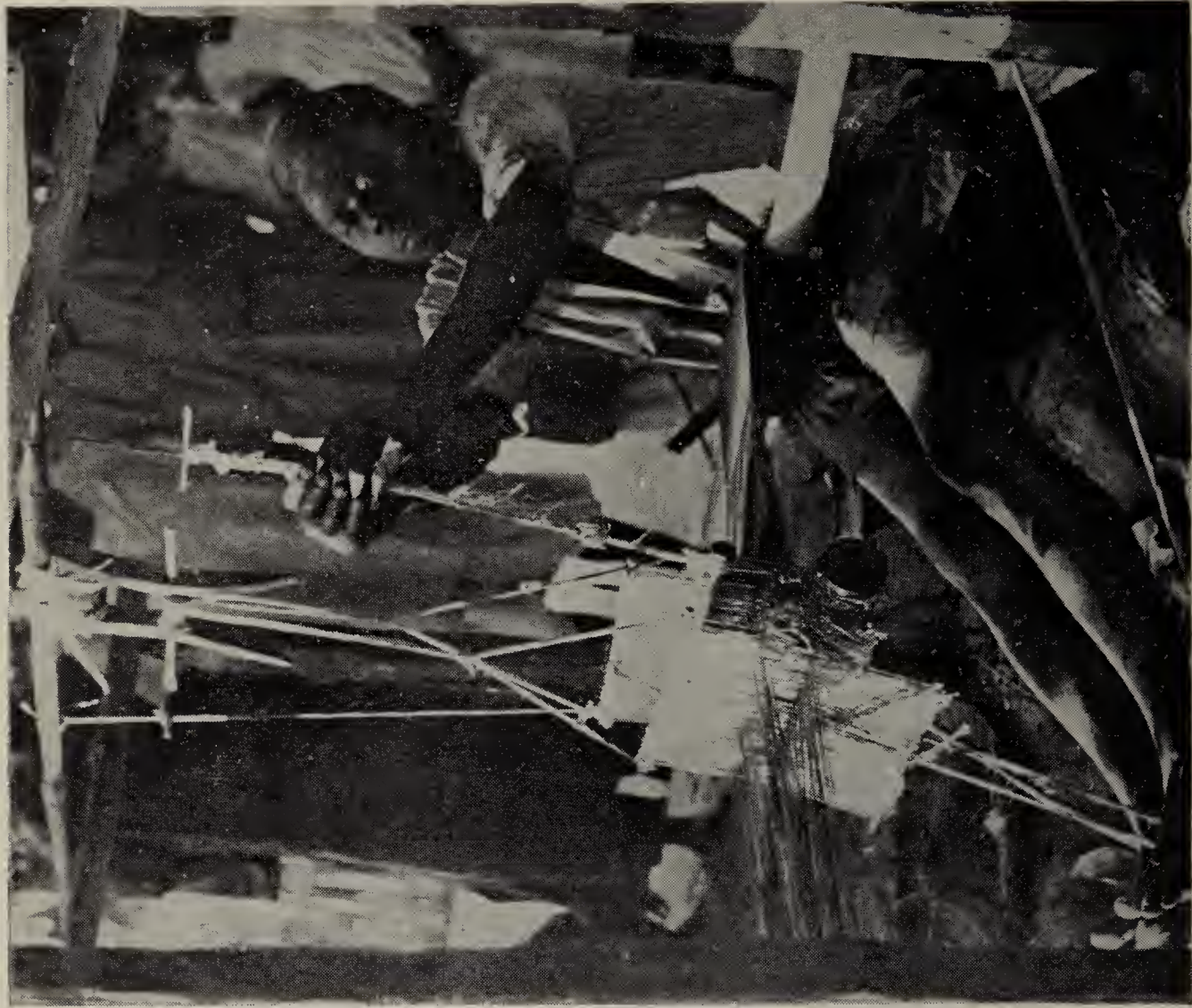
Shore fisherman at Brufut.

[R. A. Webb]



Market Scene, Kuntaour.

[R. A. Webb]



A weaver, Gumpur.

[R. A. Webb]



Pit Saeyers, Yundum.

[R. A. Webb]

The West African Council for Medical Research Ordinance (No. 2 of 1955) provides for the status and functions, duties and powers within the Gambia of the West African Council for Medical Research.

The Sale of Goods Ordinance (No. 4 of 1955) declares the law relating to the sale of goods and makes provision similar to those of the Sale of Goods Act of the United Kingdom, as amended.

The Arbitration Ordinance (No. 6 of 1955) introduces for the first time legislation to make provision for cases where dispute arises when the parties have agreed to refer future disputes to arbitration. The only provision hitherto had been to permit reference to arbitration after litigation had already started.

The Companies Ordinance (No. 9 of 1955) introduces legislation to regulate trading companies and other association and to enable companies to be incorporated in the Gambia.

The Mining (Mineral Oil) Ordinance (No. 15 of 1955) introduces legislation regulating the prospecting for and mining of mineral oils in the Gambia. (The entire property and control of mineral oils was declared to be vested in the Crown by the Minerals Ordinance 1953).

The Military Pensions Ordinance (No. 20 of 1955) regulates the grant of retiring benefits in respect of service by African officers and other ranks in Her Majesty's Military Forces in the Gambia.

The Revision of the Laws of the Gambia.

During 1955 the laws of the Gambia were revised by Sir Donald Kingdon, Q.C., who was appointed Commissioner for that purpose. The Revision was expected to be available during 1956 ; it will be contained in 8 volumes and will be a statement of the statute law and subsidiary legislation of the Gambia as at 1st January 1955. It supercedes the Revision of 1942.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

A description of the legal and judicial systems of the Gambia must distinguish between the Colony System and the Protectorate System.

The Legal System of the Colony

The legal system in the Colony is founded upon English common law and the statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 1st November, 1888. It includes Colony Ordinances

and subsidiary legislative instruments enacted locally. It includes also a Mohammedan Law Recognition Ordinance under which a Mohammedan Court constituted by a Cadi exercises jurisdiction in causes and matters between, or exclusively affecting, Mohammedan natives of West Africa relating to civil status, marriage, succession, donations, testaments and guardianship under forms of procedure and practice according to the rules of Mohammedan law.

The criminal law and procedure are codified in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Codes administered by the Colony Courts other than the Mohammedan Court, which has no criminal or quasi-criminal jurisdiction.

All summary conviction offences are heard and determined by the Colonial Magistrate or, in his absence, by two or more lay Justices of the Peace, who have power also to receive and inquire into all charges of offences punishable on information before the Supreme Court of the Colony. Any person charged with a grave offence such as treason, murder, manslaughter, rape or robbery with violence, must be committed for trial before the Supreme Court, and any adult person charged with an offence punishable by imprisonment for more than three years, and triable as a summary conviction offence, may be tried summarily only with his recorded consent. Furthermore, the magistrates or justices have no jurisdiction to deal summarily with any offence charged before them where the prosecution is being carried on by the Attorney-General, except with the consent of the Attorney-General.

The civil law of the Colony is, briefly the English civil law. It is administered by the Supreme Court and by the Court of Requests, presided over by the Colonial Magistrate or two or more Justices of the Peace. The Court of Requests has jurisdiction in the Colony in all pleas of personal actions where the debt or damage claimed is not more than £50 and in actions of ejectment or of title to corporal or incorporated hereditaments where the value of the suit does not exceed £50. The Court of Requests has no jurisdiction in actions for malicious prosecution, libel, slander, criminal conspiracy, seduction, or breach of promise of marriage.

Minors may sue for wages in this Court as if they were persons of full age. The Court provides for easy and speedy determination of matters before it in a summary manner and any party aggrieved by a decision of the Court has a right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

The civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is, of course, unlimited. It includes probate, matrimonial and divorce jurisdiction, and the Court has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeals from the Court of Requests and the Mohammedan Court already referred to.

The laws of evidence in the Colony, and in British Courts in the Protectorate, may be described shortly as the English law of evidence.

With some minor restrictions relating to the value of civil suits and to convictions on a plea of "Guilty" in criminal cases, a right of

appeal to the Supreme Court lies from all decisions of subordinate courts and decisions of the Mohammedan Court, and a right of appeal lies to the West African Court of Appeal from all decisions of the Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction and from decisions of the Supreme Court on a matter of law in its appellate criminal jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court exercises powers of review and revision over all criminal proceedings decided by or brought before a subordinate court. The complete list of all such proceedings required by law to be forwarded to the Judge at the end of every month, or as the Judge may direct, operates as an appeal on behalf of every convicted person whose name appears in the list and brings the review and revision procedure into effect automatically.

The Judicial System of the Colony

The judicial system of the Colony comprises, first, the Supreme Court of the Colony consisting of and held by a Judge appointed by the Governor by Letters Patent under the Public Seal in accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty. The Governor has power to appoint a person to act as Judge when the office is vacant, and can also appoint a Deputy Judge whenever circumstances require a deputy to represent the Judge.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and possesses the same jurisdiction as Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England. The Supreme Court has all the powers and authority of the Lord High Chancellor of England. There are attached to the Supreme Court a Sheriff of the Colony, a Registrar, a Clerk of Courts and an interpreter. The Registrar is the Taxing Master.

All criminal trials in the Supreme Court are held normally before the Judge with a jury of 12 men. In any case where an offence is punishable by death, seven of the jurors must be special jurors. In other offences the Judge may, in his discretion, direct that all or some of the jurors shall be special jurors. Special jurors, who are selected by the Justices of the Peace, are persons selected on account of their education, and judgement, or who are otherwise specially qualified.

Every male person in the Colony between 21 and 60 years of age with understanding of the English language who is a member of a learned or liberal profession, or has a £7 property valuation, or is a rent payer of £10 per annum, or is in receipt of salary or commission of £50 yearly value, and is not under disability or disqualified from serving or exempted, is qualified and liable for jury service.

Any person charged with an offence other than a capital offence may elect to be tried by the Court with the aid of assessors instead of being tried by a Judge and jury. The Attorney-General may require the Court, where any person is charged with a non-capital offence, to try a case with the aid of assessors instead of by a Judge and jury where he is of the opinion that a more fair and impartial trial can be obtained for the person charged by such method. Assessors who must number

not less than three, are selected by the Judge from among the Justices of the Peace and special jurors. On the conclusion of the evidence and summing-up the assessors express their opinions orally, and these are recorded by the Judge. The decision of the case is, however, vested exclusively in the Judge.

Civil causes in the Supreme Court are triable by the Judge without a jury and the Judge's decision is taken, deemed to be, and is recorded as the judgement of the Court. Civil suits are commenced by writ of summons, accompanied by particulars of claim in proper cases, and are ordinarily heard and determined in a summary manner without pleadings, but pleadings may be ordered when the nature and circumstances of the case appears to render them expedient.

The Rules of the Supreme Court, which are similar in many matters to the English Rules of the Supreme Court, are made by the Judge and require approval by the Legislative Council. They are applied to all matters and proceedings, civil and criminal, to which they extend.

Subordinate Courts in the Colony

The other courts of the Colony are the Bathurst Magistrate's Court, the Court of Requests of the Colony and the Magistrate's Court of Kombo St. Mary. These courts are normally constituted and presided over by the Colonial Magistrate or, in his absence, by two or more Justices of the Peace or, in the case of the Kombo St. Mary Magistrate's Court, by the Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner. There is also the Mohammedan Court already referred to, which is constituted and presided over by the Cadi of that Court or by the Cadi and two assessors whenever in the opinion of the Governor the Cadi is not a man of "uncontested ability." In the absence of a Cadi the Mohammedan Court is presided over, or constituted, by two or more assessors. Mohammedan Court assessors are Justices of the Peace of the Colony of the Mohammedan faith. The jurisdiction of the Mohammedan Court has already been referred to.

The criminal and civil jurisdiction of the Bathurst Magistrate's Court and the Kombo St. Mary Magistrate's Court is the same for both. As already explained, they are courts of summary jurisdiction, under the supervision of the Supreme Court, to which appeals lie also. The limitations imposed on these courts in regard to summary conviction offences have been referred to already and their civil jurisdiction mentioned.

The law relating to the treatment of young offenders and for the establishment of juvenile courts is contained in the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, 1949. The Court is constituted by a Magistrate (sitting with such other persons or persons as the Judge of the Supreme Court shall appoint) or by two Justices of the Peace. The Ordinance contains the usual provisions for the treatment of persons brought before the court and restricts the punishment which it may

impose. A separate room in the court buildings has been set aside for use as a juvenile court.

The Protectorate Legal and Judicial Systems

The Protectorate legal and judicial systems may be explained together.

The Protectorate system comprises the High Court of the Protectorate constituted by the Judge of the Supreme Court of the Colony and having in respect of matters occurring in the Protectorate the same jurisdiction, civil and criminal, as the Supreme Court has in respect of matters occurring in the Colony. It comprises also British Subordinate Protectorate Courts and graded Native Tribunals.

Generally stated, the system of law in force in the Protectorate is, as far as is consistent with the Protectorate system, the law for the time being in force in the Colony, together with reasonable native law and custom which is not repugnant to justice, or incompatible with the principles of the law of England, or any law or Ordinance of the Colony applying to the Protectorate. British Courts in the Protectorate administer British law, Colony law, and Ordinances applying to the Protectorate. Native Tribunals administer native law and custom prevailing in the area of the jurisdiction of the tribunal, Mohammedan law relating to civil status, marriage, succession, divorce, dowry, the rights and authorities of parents and guardianship where the parties are Mohammedans. They also administer Native Authority and Commissioner's Rules and Orders, provision of Ordinances and subsidiary legislative instruments which are authorised justiciable by a subordinate court of the second class, that is, by a British subordinate court. Native tribunals are not in the strict sense of the word subordinate courts.

In the High Court all matters, civil and criminal, are tried without a jury, but the Judge may employ assessors for advisory purposes only for any civil or criminal case. He may relax Rules of Court where expedient for facilitating or expediting the administration of justice and where not prejudicial to an accused person making his defence.

The High Court has the same appellate jurisdiction in regard to subordinate courts in the Protectorate in civil and criminal matters, and exercises the same powers of review and revision over such courts as the Supreme Court possesses and exercises in regard to subordinate courts in the Colony. The Rules of the Supreme Court of the Colony apply, subject to the powers of relaxation, to the High Court.

The subordinate courts of the Protectorate are constituted by the Commissioners of the Protectorate as *ex officio* magistrates of the first and second class. Their powers of punishment for criminal offences in the case of first class magistrates are the same as those of the Colonial Magistrate, who is also a first class magistrate in every division of the Protectorate in which he may be required to sit from time to time. The civil jurisdiction of subordinate courts of the Protectorate is limited to

£100 suit value. The jurisdiction of such courts in civil and criminal matters is concurrent with the jurisdiction of the native tribunals.

The native tribunals are established by the Governor, as he shall think fit, by warrant under the Native Tribunals Ordinance, 1933. There are two grades of tribunals ; group tribunals may try criminal cases which can be adequately punished by imprisonment up to twelve months, or by fine up to £25, or by both such imprisonment and fine, and possess civil jurisdiction up to £50 suit value. District tribunals extend to criminal cases similarly up to six months and/or fine of £10 and to civil cases of £25 suit value. Proceedings are commenced either by complaint, information or application either to the tribunal when it is in session, or to the president of the tribunal when it is not in session. Records of cases are kept and preserved.

Tribunals have jurisdiction over any member of an African race, but the Governor has power to direct that any native or class of natives shall not be subject to tribunals except with their consent. Members of the Armed Forces, the Police Force, Government servants, members of the Legislative Council, Justices of the Peace and members of the Bathurst Town Council are so exempted.

In addition to the forms of punishment permitted to tribunals under the Criminal Code they have power to inflict any punishment authorised by native law and custom which is not repugnant to natural justice and humanity. Subject to any prescribed Rules, the practice and procedure of the tribunals is regulated in accordance with native law and custom. Every tribunal is required by law to report all cases tried by it to the Commissioner of the Division in which the tribunal has jurisdiction. Sentences of corporal punishment on juveniles under 16 years of age are subject to confirmation by the Commissioner and by the High Court. A native tribunal may not pass sentence of corporal punishment on persons of 16 years of age or over. The complete lists of all native tribunal criminal cases are forwarded to the Judge of the High Court monthly, or at such intervals as the Judge may direct, by the Commissioners and such lists operate as appeals so as to bring into operation the review and revisional powers of the Judge on behalf of every convicted person.

The tribunals are under the immediate supervision of the Commissioners, who have access to them and to their records at all times. The Commissioners exercise wide revisional powers including power to direct a re-trial before the same or another tribunal and to transfer any cause to a subordinate court for disposal. Cases both civil and criminal may be removed to a subordinate court from a tribunal by the Commissioner upon the report of a defendant.

No legal practitioner may appear or act for any party before a native tribunal.

General

The main types of civil and criminal cases before the Courts in the

Gambia can be stated only very briefly. The majority of civil cases are civil debt cases. The great majority of criminal cases are offences against property. It may be said that the territory is happily free of serious crimes of violence.

Statistics of civil and criminal cases are given at Appendix V.

POLICE

The Gambia Police Force is distributed throughout the Colony and Protectorate, having its headquarters in Bathurst. For administrative purposes the Territory as a whole is divided into two Police Divisions—the Colony Division comprising six Police Stations and one Police Post, and the Protectorate Division comprising three Police Stations situated at the H.Q.'s of three of the Protectorate Administration Divisional Commissioners and three Police Posts elsewhere in the Protectorate.

The Force is commanded by a Chief Superintendent assisted by a Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent at Headquarters. The present strength of the Force is one Chief Superintendent, one Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent and three Assistant Superintendents, one Chief Inspector, nine Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, 19 Sergeants, and 208 other ranks. The distribution of the establishment was :

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Police Headquarters | . . . | 97 of all ranks which includes the Police Band of 24 musicians. |
| Colony Division | . . . | 110 of all ranks. |
| Protectorate Division | . . . | 36 of all ranks. |

Of the Gazetted Officers, two are Africans who were promoted from the Inspectorate during 1954. Personnel of other ranks, including that of Chief Inspector, are all African and are recruited mainly from the indigenous tribes in the Gambia, viz. :—Wollof, Mandingo, Fula, Jola, Serehuli, and Akus of the coastal region. A small proportion come from Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and Nigeria. At least 80 per cent are Mohammedan. Three of the Inspectorate have received training at the Metropolitan Police Training School in England.

The general duties of the Police are the preservation of law and order, the protection of property, the prevention and detection of crime, the regulation of road traffic, and the due enforcement of all laws and statutory regulations with which they are directly charged. Immigration control, issuing of passports and travel documents, registration and licensing of firearms and motor vehicles, licensing of motor drivers and enforcement of the weights and measures laws, fall among the latter.

Some 80 per cent of the African personnel are literate although the standard of literacy is, in many cases, elementary. Facilities for adult education have been available to all Police stationed in Bathurst and attendance at classes has been compulsory for all illiterates under 30 years of age. This, coupled with insistence upon literacy as a qualifica-

tion for all recruits accepted during the past few years, has considerably improved the general standard of literacy and education in the Force. Pidgin English is generally spoken and understood, but Court prosecutions are conducted in Gambian languages through a Court interpreter. The training of recruit constables is carried out in the Police Training School at Headquarters. The School is staffed by an Inspector, two Sergeants and a junior N.C.O.

The Criminal Investigation Department is equipped with modern photographic appliances, and at the end of 1955 there were 7,593 classified sets of fingerprints filed with the identification bureau.

Crime throughout the territory is not serious, but stealing is prevalent. The following tables give details :

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Murder</i> | <i>Attempted Murder</i> | <i>Man-slaughter</i> | <i>Grievous-Bodily Harm</i> | <i>Rape</i> | <i>Wounding</i> | <i>Assaults</i> |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1952 . . | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 12 | 33 | 65 |
| 1953 . . | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 30 | 36 |
| 1954 . . | 7 | 1 | 1 | — | 5 | 39 | 53 |
| 1955 . . | 2 | — | 6 | 1 | 8 | 35 | 74 |

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Burglary</i> | <i>House-breaking</i> | <i>Shop-breaking</i> | <i>Arson</i> | <i>Frauds & False Pretences</i> | <i>Receiving</i> | <i>Larceny</i> |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1952 . . | 97 | 79 | 68 | 2 | 87 | 29 | 767 |
| 1953 . . | 109 | 93 | 107 | 1 | 53 | 32 | 511 |
| 1954 . . | 71 | 59 | 56 | 1 | 50 | 11 | 458 |
| 1955 . . | 60 | 24 | 50 | 3 | 15 | 13 | 380 |

TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES DEALT WITH BY POLICE

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Number Reported</i> | <i>Persons taken to court</i> | <i>Persons Convicted</i> | <i>Cases under Investigation</i> |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1952 . . | 1,395 | 600 | 510 | — |
| 1953 . . | 1,066 | 633 | 527 | — |
| 1954 . . | 882 | 430 | 322 (15) | 18 |
| 1955 . . | 979 | 457 | 341 (11) | 2 |

Note : figures in brackets denote juveniles.

The Harbour Police Branch, which is responsible for policing the water front and patrolling the post of Bathurst, the river mouth and adjoining creeks, has proved itself a valuable adjunct to the Police Force. The Police patrol launch has aided a number of small craft in distress, and has been instrumental in saving several lives. It has also been called upon on a number of occasions when no other craft was available to convey sick persons and cases of accidental injury across the river to hospital in Bathurst. The launch is manned by crews drawn

from the regular police and civilians transferred from the Marine Department. During 1955 six members of the Harbour Police were seconded to the Marine Department for training as coxswains and engineers.

The Bathurst Fire Brigade.

The Chief Superintendent of Police is the Chief Fire Officer for Bathurst. The Fire Brigade itself is established under the Fire Brigade Ordinance, 1948, and is entirely separate from the Police Force. The present establishment is one Sub-Officer and 16 full-time firemen. There is one Fire Station. Appliances and up to date equipment include :—one motor hose tender, one motor water tender with hose reel, four large and two small trailer pumps, 11,000 feet of hose, one smoke helmet, one 35-foot extension ladder and one hook ladder.

There are 85 hydrants in Bathurst and ample emergency supplies of water are readily available from the river Gambia and from drainage canals. There are no other Fire Brigades in the Territory.

PRISONS

Penal administration in the Gambia is the function of a separate department with the Superintendent of Prisons at its head. He is assisted by a Deputy Assistant Superintendent and subordinate staff consisting of two Chief Officers, two Principal Officers, 34 prison officers of junior grades and one Matron.

There are three penal establishments in the territory, of which the Central Prison, where departmental headquarters is also situated, lies two miles from Bathurst and houses recidivists and second offenders. Improvements to the security wall and gate lodge were effected during the period under review, while a new kitchen and a small remand wing were completed, the latter permitting complete separation of persons in that category from all others. The second prison is at Georgetown, headquarters of the MacCarthy Island Division of the Protectorate Administration and about 180 miles from Bathurst. Recent alterations have improved the security and accommodation at this small establishment. At Jeswang, on the site of a former aerodrome, nine miles from Bathurst, is a Prison Camp which was opened in 1953. At present a maximum of 36 first and second offenders can be housed there in association cell blocks.

The number of prisoners received into all establishments during the years under review was as follows :

| | 1954 | 1955 |
|-------------------|------|------|
| Convictions . . . | 243 | 291 |
| Remands . . . | 104 | 94 |

The daily average of prisoners during the past four years has been :

| 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
|------|------|--------|-------|
| 113 | 136 | 123.14 | 104.5 |

The health of prisoners has remained good. Minor infections are treated at the infirmary at the Central Prison while more serious cases are transferred to the Victoria Hospital in Bathurst or that at Bansang near Georgetown. All prisoners are medically examined on reception and the Prison Medical Officer, though not resident, is in daily attendance and available at all times in case of emergency.

Necessary building work is for the most part undertaken by prisoners under the supervision of Prison Officer Instructors. Prisoners are also engaged in tailoring, boot repairing and carpentry. Certain classes of prisoners work outside the walls in the vegetable gardens and, further afield, in the cultivation of rice and other staple crops for prison consumption. The production of rice began at Georgetown in 1951 and now forms an important contribution to the prison economy. A scheme is in operation which permits prisoners to earn, by good conduct and industry, money for personal expenditure.

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

THE Public Works Department, the largest of Government's Departments, performs the normal functions of constructing and maintaining Government building and all other public works including the water supply undertakings for Bathurst, Kombo St. Mary and the Protectorate. Electricity supplies were also administered by the Public Works Department until the 1st January 1955 when the responsibility was handed over to the newly created Electricity Department.

The Department is also responsible for the control of Civil Aviation and the Airport and, until the 1st January 1955, for the provision of wireless and telephone communications. On that date the latter were transferred to the Postmaster General.

The Gambia Marine, which formed a branch of the Public Works Department for several years, again became a separate Department of Government on the 1st January 1954.

ELECTRICITY

The largest power house in the Gambia is at Bathurst where the diesel-driven alternators generated 1,876,184 units in 1953, and 2,213,070 units in 1954.

A new power station was put on commercial load in March 1955. Two 750kW. turbo-pressure charged diesel alternator sets are installed, generating at 11 kv. 50 cycles 3-phase. Transmission is at 11 kv. by underground cable in Bathurst, and by overhead line at 11 kv. to Cape St. Mary and Yundum. Distribution is at 400 volts 50 cycles 3-phase, and neutral. A third 750 kW. set is to be installed.

Units generated in 1955 were 2,574,384 with a maximum recorded load of 730kW.

The number of consumers is 1,449. Units consumed in 1955 were approximately as follows :

| | <i>Units Consumed</i> |
|---|-----------------------|
| Commercial and domestic consumers | 1,486,946 |
| Government | 830,000 |

Tariffs

Domestic power, 1½d. per unit.

Domestic light, 9d. per unit.

Industrial (commercial) power, 6d. per unit.

The Gambia Government also undertook small-scale supplies of electricity at Brikama, Georgetown, Bansang and Mansakonko. Supply is at 400 volts 50 cycles 3-phase 4 wire.

BUILDINGS

In addition to expenditure on maintenance, £38,000 was spent on new building work in 1954 and £75,900 in 1955.

The major works carried out were :

Completion of the New Victoria Hospital, with the exception of a small Children's ward still in course of construction at the end of 1955.

The Teacher Training College at Yundum.

New quarters for Police Constables and Police Inspectors in Bathurst.

A new Police Station and quarters at Basse.

Conversion of a building formerly occupied by the Bathurst Club as a new Legislative Council Chamber and Offices.

Works still in progress at the end of 1955 were as follows :

A Static Tank Latrine in the Dockyard.

Junior Service Quarters for staff at Yundum Airport and at Basse.

A new Secondary Modern and a new Primary School in Bathurst were begun during the latter part of 1954.

Eight new Division I Officers Quarters were provided from the reconstruction of buildings formerly occupied by the B.O.A.C. at Fajara, and the conversion of the Old Military Hospital in Bathurst into four flats was nearing completion at the end of 1955.

A wide range of improvements and additions to existing Government buildings was carried out.

DRAINAGE

The major scheme financed by the Colonial Development and Welfare funds to provide storm-water drainage, reclaim 400 acres of swamp and to improve mosquito control was virtually completed. The exten-

sion of the drainage of Bathurst streets is being carried out in conjunction with the reconstruction and paving works referred to in Chapter 11.

The comprehensive plan for the development of the land reclaimed by drainage work is in hand.

WATERWORKS

Bathurst and the Fajara area are supplied with chlorinated water from Abuko Stream pumped to a reservoir at Fajara where it gavitates. A water rate is in force. Investigations including the driving of five boreholes, one of which extends to a depth of 1,190 feet and provides an artesian supply in Bathurst, are complete. A scheme for the introduction of the new sources of supply has been prepared and it was proposed that work should begin in 1956.

Small supplies are provided at Brikama, Bansang, Yundum, Mansakonko, Yoroberi-Kunda and Massembe.

A rural water supplies organisation under the control of a Village Water Supplies Supervisor is providing assistance to District Authorities in the Protectorate in maintaining and improving wells in villages.

Water is generally available at reasonable depths throughout the Gambia.

WHARVES

A new timber wharf known as Admiralty Wharf has been completed in Bathurst for the use of Government steamers and as an oiling wharf. Two new major timber wharves have been completed in the Lower River at Albreda and Tendaba.

Chapter 11 : Communications

SHIPPING

Harbour Facilities

The Port of Bathurst is controlled by the Principal Marine Officer who is also *ex-officio* Chairman of the Navigation and Pilotage Board. The Board is responsible for the supervision of all matters connected with the navigation of the Colonial waters, the making of bye laws and the Port, Wharf and Light Dues to be levied.

Pilotage is compulsory within Colonial Waters, from a distance of five miles outside the port limits. This service, which was instituted early in 1955, undertakes the pilotage, berthing and unberthing of vessels at any hour.

Government Wharf, which possesses a berthing face of 290 feet, has a minimum depth of 28 feet at L.W.O.S.T. alongside. This depth, which conforms with the minimum depth in the approach channel, is maintained by dredging. Two-ton mobile cranes are available for cargo handling.

In 1955 the mail steamer *Apapa* berthed at Government Wharf for the first time. This is now a regular procedure. Admiralty Wharf, at the southern end of the waterfront is now being extended to provide a berth for vessels to evacuate ilmenite. The berth will accommodate vessels of 450 feet in length and will at the same time provide a further wharf for discharging cargo and loading groundnuts. It will also accommodate tankers, and pipe lines are laid for this purpose. A minimum depth of 28 feet will be maintained alongside this berth also. Government river vessels will continue to use Admiralty Wharf.

Navigational aids, comprising a lighted, buoyed and beaconed channel, extend from 26 miles to seaward to James Island in the river, a total distance of 42 miles. A light is also exhibited at Bijol Island off the Atlantic coast. These lights are maintained by the Marine Department.

Overseas Ships

The total tonnage of overseas merchant shipping which entered and cleared the port in 1954 was 876,827, of which 712,295 tons were British registered. Comparable figures for 1955 were 882,615 and 705,198 tons respectively. H.M.S. *Pelican* paid a visit in November 1954 and H.M.S. *Sparrow* called in November 1955, both wearing the flag of the Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic.

During 1954 a total of 40 overseas vessels totalling 24,651 tons negotiated the River Gambia to ports as far up as Basse. In 1955, 34 vessels totalling 25,546 tons made the River passage.

Passenger and Freight Services

A regular weekly passenger and freight service is maintained by the Government vessels, H.M.C.S. *Lady Wright* and H.M.C.S. *Fulladu*, sailing alternately. The former has been in service since 1951, when she was delivered by her makers in the United Kingdom. She is a twin screw motor vessel of 532 tons ; designed specifically for the service, with aluminium upper works to reduce draft, she provides comfortable cabin accommodation and accomplishes the round trip Bathurst—Basse—Bathurst in under five days. H.M.C.S. *Fulladu* was built in 1941 for the English coastal trade and purchased by the Government in 1950. She is a single screw vessel of 303 tons with second class cabin passenger accommodation. During the two-year period, 36,184 passengers and 7,618 tons of cargo were transported. A postal service is maintained aboard each vessel and *Lady Wright* provides a wireless telegraph service in addition.

Ferry services for passengers and vehicles are operated by the Marine Department at eight points on the River Gambia and across two major creeks. A new vehicular and passenger ferry has been under construction in the United Kingdom for the Bathurst-Barra service; which will permit crossing at all stages of the tide.. This ferry was ordered in 1955 and was to go into service during the latter half of 1956.

Several launches are in service in the harbour and upriver during the rains. In addition, the Governor's Yacht *Mansa Kila Kuta* is maintained and manned by the Marine Department, as well as launches owned by the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board and the Medical Department.

Dockyard Services

Dockyard services include a 500-ton slipway, a machine shop and a plating shop capable of undertaking repairs on vessels of considerable size and a boat-building and joinery section which in 1955 built a cattle vessel of 125 tons and several launches of up to 35 feet. Two wooden ferries were also built.

ROADS

There are 39 miles of tarmacadam road in the vicinity of Bathurst, 185 miles of laterite surface roads and approximately 534 miles of sand tracks in the Protectorate. The latter are open to motor traffic during the dry season from December to July only, with the exception of two international routes leading from Dakar to Ziguinchor, one via Bathurst and the second via Balingho and Yelitenda, which are open throughout the year.

In addition to maintenance work, a comprehensive programme for the reconstruction of bituminous main roads in the Colony has been in progress together with the reconstruction and paving of the streets in Bathurst. The latter project is financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

The reconstruction of some ten miles of Class II laterite road in the Protectorate has been completed.

The following vehicles were licensed :

| | 1954 | 1955 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|
| Motor Cycles | 151 | 186 |
| Motor Cars | 373 | 410 |
| Commercial Vehicles | 817 | 798 |

AIR

The Director of Public Works is the Controller of Civil Aviation. His Department maintains the only aerodrome, at Yundum, some seventeen miles from Bathurst, which is operated by Messrs. International Aeradio Limited, on behalf of the Government and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Meteorological services are provided by the West African Meteorological Service.

West African Airways Corporation operated during the period under review a regular service on the route Lagos—Accra—Freetown—Bathurst—Dakar once-weekly in each direction until the 2nd October 1955 when a twice-weekly schedule was introduced.

On the 14th June 1954 Messrs. Hunting-Clan Limited and Messrs. Airwork Limited began a coach class service on the route London—Tangier—Bathurst—Freetown—Accra on a once-weekly schedule in each direction.

There were 441 aircraft movements in 1954 and 627 in 1955.

There are facilities for flying boats at Bathurst, but no use has been made of them for several years.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

An automatic telephone system was brought into service in 1952, with new exchanges at Bathurst, Cape St. Mary and Yundum, and a new trunk telephone network, linking Bathurst with Kaolack to the North and Ziguinchor to the South, was opened in the same year.

There are five Government wireless stations operating on the frequency 3809 kilocycles per second, situated at :

| | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|-----------|------|
| Bathurst | . | . | . | call sign | VSH |
| Mansakonko | . | . | . | „ „ | VSH2 |
| Kuntaur. | . | . | . | „ „ | ZCA |
| Georgetown | . | . | . | „ „ | VSW |
| Basse | . | . | . | „ „ | VSX |

POSTS

There are six post offices in the Gambia. The service is directed by the Postmaster General from the head office in Bathurst. Sub-offices are situated at Brikama, Mansakonko, Kuntaur, Georgetown and Basse. Postal Agencies operate at Cape St. Mary, Serekunda, Gunjur, Bwiam, Jawara, Kaur, Bansang, and Fatoto. Travelling post offices aboard Government river steamers provide full facilities at ports of call where no agency exists. There are licensed stamp vendors in Bathurst and Basse. Airmails are conveyed north and south by the West African Airways Corporation and by Safari services operated by Messrs. Hunting-Clan and Airwork, while overland and river services operate between Bathurst and the sub-offices.

The approximate number of letters, postcards, newspapers, etc. handled in 1954—1955 was 2,193,352 including 985,760 airmail letters received and despatched. The number of parcels dealt with was 26,267 and collections of customs duty amounted to £17,440.

Money and Postal Order transactions were as follows :

| | 1954—1955 |
|--|---------------|
| Money Orders issued and paid | £176,808 |
| Revenue derived | 753 |
| Postal Orders issued and paid | 60,829 |
| Revenue derived | 188 |
| Total Revenue | 59,966 |
| Total Expenditure | 54,200 |
| Excess of Revenue over Expenditure | <u>£5,766</u> |

Chapter 12 : Press, Broadcasting, Films, and Government Information Services

PRESS

THE following newspapers are published in the Gambia :

The Gambia Outlook, price 6d., published weekly by the Senegambia Press, 4 Fitzgerald Street, Bathurst. Proprietor and Editor : E. F. Small, O.B.E., 4 Allen Street, Bathurst.

The Gambia Echo, price 6d., published weekly by The Gambia Echo Newspapers Syndicate, 2 Russel Street, Bathurst. Editor : Lenrie Peters, Hagan Street, Bathurst.

The Gambia News Bulletin, subscription 1s. per month or 12s. per annum, published daily except Sundays and Public Holidays by the Information Office, Bathurst.

Kibaro, published monthly and issued free by the Senior Commissioner, 1 Marina, Bathurst. This is written in Mandinka language in Roman script.

During the war years the Government found it necessary to issue *The Gambia News Bulletin*, a daily newsheet of world and local news, Government notices and B.B.C. radio programmes, etc. In the absence, during the post-war years, of a daily commercial newspaper in the Colony, the Information Office has continued to issue this newsheet, which apart from the overseas broadcasts, is the only source of day-to-day world news in the Colony. It also reports local news factually and without comment.

Kibaro is the only newspaper produced in the vernacular. It is devoted to news from and concerning the Protectorate, and is designed specifically for Protectorate readers. It is edited in the office of the Senior Commissioner, and is printed by the Government Printer. *Kibaro* is entirely non-political in character, and one of its main purpo-

ses is to keep the Protectorate people, few of whom are literate in English, in touch with matters of fundamental interest to a farming community. The circulation of *Kibaro* is about 500 copies, many of which go to the Protectorate schools. The articles and news items are, apart from a news-letter from the Governor, subscribed by residents of the Protectorate.

BROADCASTING

There is no immediate prospect of a broadcasting station being operated in the Gambia.

FILMS

There are only two commercial cinemas in the Colony and they are in Bathurst. The films they show are generally obtained from a circuit operating in adjacent French Senegal.

The Government Information Office shows films in Bathurst regularly and operates a mobile cinema in the Protectorate during the dry season (see below). There are also static projectors located at each of the four Divisional Headquarters in the Protectorate. The films used by the Information Office are obtained from the Central Office of Information, London, or are local newsreels in black and white or colour taken by the Information Office staff.

Films are also shown regularly at the British Council Centre in Bathurst to members of the Centre. These programmes are usually of a documentary character, though feature films are occasionally shown when available.

A Cinematograph Board of Control composed of three Viewing Committees and an Appeal Committee operates in the Gambia. Its main function is to licence films for public exhibition, though posters and slides are also within its purview.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Office (or Public Relations Office—it acts in both capacities) is part of the Secretariat. At its head is the Information Officer responsible directly to the Colonial Secretary.

During 1954 and 1955, 240 film shows were given in Bathurst and its environs. Some 30 shows were given in the Protectorate by the mobile cinema during the 1954—1955 dry season, after which the van and staff were employed extensively in explaining election procedure in Bathurst and the Colony in preparation for the first election under the new Constitution.

The Office also runs a small photographic service to supply its own needs and to illustrate articles on the Gambia and Gambian subjects.

The Information Office assists the local commercial weekly newspapers with background material and supplies them with ebonoid printing blocks.

Chapter 13 : Local Forces

THE GAMBIA REGIMENT

IN 1901 a party of four officers and two non-commissioned officers seconded from British Regiments arrived in Bathurst to raise and train a unit of Company strength forming part of the Sierra Leone Battalion, Royal West African Frontier Force. During the Great War of 1914—1918, the Gambia Company saw active service in the Cameroons and East Africa.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 the Company was serving in Sierra Leone with its parent unit. In the following year it returned to Bathurst and the First Battalion, the Gambia Regiment, was formed, followed in 1941 by the formation of the Second Battalion. In 1943 the First Battalion moved to Nigeria where it became part of the Sixth Brigade of the 81st (West African) Division. The Division moved to the Far East in November 1943, and was thereafter engaged in the Burma Campaign. The most noteworthy action in which the Battalion participated was the eight-day defence of Frontier Hill. The Second Battalion entered Burma at a later date, taking part in the victory over the Japanese at Myohaung, and, as an independent anti-tank unit in the 82nd Division, in the liberation of Rangoon.

The First Battalion returned to the Gambia in January 1945, followed later by the Second Battalion. After demobilisation, elements of both Battalions were reorganised to form, once more, the Gambia Company of the Sierra Leone Battalion. On the 10th February 1950, the Company again became a separate entity and, as "A" Company, the Gambia Regiment, is the only military force in the territory. The Regiment was presented with its Colours on the 28th April 1951, and it is, so far as is known, the only independent unit of Company strength to possess them.

The unit is manned by a limited number of British Officers and non-commissioned officers for command and administration purposes ; apart from these, all ranks are African, the majority recruited from the main tribes of the Protectorate, including Wollofs, Fulas and Mandingoes. Recruits are accepted as required to maintain the Company at full strength.

Training and administration follow the accepted lines, including the normal cycle of individual and collective training under African non-commissioned officers who have, in most cases, attended courses at the Command Training School at Accra in the Gold Coast.

Chapter 14 : Research

THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE staff of the Laboratories is engaged on problems arising from the study of tropical disease in the Gambia, principally malaria, sickle cell trait and anaemia. These investigations are conducted in and around Fajara, and also at the Council's field station at Keneba in Central Division.

Visiting workers carry out their own research programmes and receive all the facilities of the laboratories.

Summary of Research in Progress

Staff :

- (1) The effect and efficiency of long-term prophylactic administration of the anti-malarial drugs chloroquin and daraprim.
- (2) The effect of malaria on the state of health of a rural village community.
- (3) Investigation of the bionomics of anopheline and culicine mosquitos in the Gambia and the determination of the insecticidal inefficiency of B.H.C., D.D.T., and Dieldrin.
- (4) Investigation into the prevalence of sickle cell trait and sickle cell anaemia in the indigenes.
- (5) Investigation into the aetiology of the enlarged livers found in the Gambia.
- (6) Investigation of plasma and serum proteins by paper electrophores.
- (7) Malaria in breast-fed infants with special reference to the various protecting theories that have hitherto been postulated.
- (8) Electrophoretic serum pattern of new born Gambian infants.
- (9) Long-term follow-up of filariasis cases treated with hetrasan with attempts to eliminate the toxicity of the drug.
- (10) Investigation of the inter-relationship of malaria and sickling.
- (11) Determination of serum iron levels in falciperum malaria.
- (12) Chemical estimation of gamma-globulin levels in Gambian sera.
- (13) Inhibition of sickling with anti-coagulant drugs.
- (14) Effect of heavy and repeated malaria infection on Gambian children.

Visitors :

- (1) Studies of the plasma and serum pattern of "normal" Gambians by paper electrophoresis.
- (2) Investigation into the factors influencing routine serological tests for trapezomal infections.
- (3) Investigation into the forms of treponematoses occurring in the Gambia.

- (4) Investigation into the establishment of leprosy bacillus in animals.
- (5) Determination of the incidence of leprosy in Gambian villages.
- (6) Determination with the aid of laboratory animals of the vectors of *abeistosma haematobium* in the Eastern half of the Gambia as well as in a small isolated focus on the sea coast.
- (7) Study of the ecology and transmission period of suspected snails with the view to suggesting a method for their control.
- (8) Study of the effects of piperazine adipate in the treatment of ascaris and hookworm.
- (9) Assessment of the effect of repeated and heavy malaria infections on Gambian children.
- (10) Assessment of the incidence of yellow fever anti-bodies in the serum of Gambian indigenes.
- (11) Study of phase contrast microscopy of trypanosomes in their natural hosts.
- (12) Study of the systematics of molluscan vectors of Schistosomiasis.
- (13) Preparation of monkey kidney tissue suspensions for use in poliomyelitis research.
- (14) Distribution of haemoglobin in Gambians with special reference to haemoglobins "S" and "C" and their relations to blood groups.
- (15) Treatment of sickle cell anaemia with Ethyl Biscoumacetate B.P. "Tromexan."
- (16) Treatment of schistosomiasis with Sodium Antimonyl Gluconate "Triostam."
- (17) Investigation of nutritional anaemia in Gambians.
- (18) Trials of comparative activity of different piperazine salts in treatment of *Ascaris* and *Trichuris* infections and trials of atigen testing in schistosomiasis.

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E. SHERWOOD JONES.

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J. Med. Lab. Tech. 1954, 12, 71.

J. A. McFADZEAN (*with* J. F. McCOURT).

Treponematoses. *Brit. Med. J.* 1954, 11, 1270.

J. A. McFADZEAN (*with* J. F. McCOURT).

Leprosy in the Gambia, West Africa. *Leprosy Review* 1955, 26, 57.

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

THE Colony and Protectorate of the Gambia are dominated by the river which is one of the finest waterways on the Coast. It is navigable for ocean-going vessels as far as Kuntaur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than one fathom as far as Fatoto, a village close to the eastern end of the Protectorate and 288 miles from the mouth. The river is tidal and even at Fatoto there is a slight rise. The total length of the river is some 700 miles and its source is in French territory near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon Plateau.

The Colony consists mainly of the Island of St. Mary at the mouth of the Gambia, the adjoining division of Kombo St. Mary and MacCarthy Island in the middle river. The Island of St. Mary and Kombo St. Mary have a total area of about 30 square miles. The capital, Bathurst, with a population of 20,000 is situated on the Island of St. Mary.

The Protectorate has a total area of 3,948 square miles and consists of strips of territory on either bank of the river which for most of their length are no more than seven miles wide. The country is flat with occasional low laterite ridges, and, except in the swamps which line the river, the soil is sandy and poor. As far as Kaur, mangroves cover the banks of black mud which are intersected by an intricate system of tidal creeks.

There are distinct wet and dry seasons. The rains, which start in June and last until October, average 35—45 inches a year. All the year round the climate on the coast is the best in British West Africa, and from the beginning of December until the end of April is, in fact, pleasant. During the rains humidity increases and approaches that of other coastal areas in West Africa. Conditions of living in Bathurst have been considerably improved since the mosquito-breeding swamp at the back of the town was drained in 1950. The climate up river is much hotter, especially from February to June when temperatures of more than 110° F. are recorded. The onset of the rains produces cooler and pleasanter conditions.

Chapter 2 : History

THE first Europeans to visit the River Gambia were Aluise de Cada Mosto, a Venetian, and Antoniotto Usi di Mare, a Genoese. They were commissioned by Prince Henry the Navigator, of Portugal, to lead an

expedition along the African coast to the South of Cape Verde. They arrived in the River Gambia in 1455, but only proceeded a short way upstream. They repeated their voyage in the following year, when they proceeded farther up the river and got into touch with some of the native chiefs. When they were near the river's mouth, "they cast anchor on a Sunday morning at an island in the shape of a smoothing iron, where one of the sailors, who had died of fever, was buried, and, as his name was Andrew, being well loved, they gave the Island the name of St. Andrew." For some three centuries afterwards the history of the European occupation of the Gambia was largely the history of this island.

This discovery was followed by attempts on the part of the Portuguese at settlement along the river banks. The number of settlers never appears at any time to have been large and such few as there were intermarried with the native African races. The European strain in their descendants rapidly diminished and, in the course of time, it became difficult to distinguish them from the indigenous races except for the fact that they styled themselves Portuguese, affected European dress and names, and professed to be Christians. Communities of Portuguese descent continued to live on the banks of the Gambia in separate villages well into the middle of the eighteenth century. Portuguese churches existed up to 1730 at San Domingo (near Albreda), Geregia (sc. Portuguese "igreja") near Kansala in Foni, and Tankular. The farthest Portuguese settlement up the river was at Setuku near Fattatenda.

In 1580 the throne of Portugal was seized by Phillip II of Spain and a number of Portuguese took refuge in England. In 1587 one of these refugees, Fransisco Ferreira, piloted two English ships to the Gambia and returned with a profitable cargo of hides and ivory. In the following year Antonio, Prior of Crato, who laid claim to the Portuguese throne, sold to certain London and Devon merchants the exclusive right to trade between the Rivers Senegal and Gambia. This grant was confirmed to the grantees for a period of 10 years by letters patent of Queen Elizabeth. The patentees sent several vessels to the coast, but owing to Portuguese hostility did not venture further south than Joal—30 miles to the north of the mouth of the River Gambia. They reported that the Gambia was "a river of secret trade and riches, concealed by the Portugals. For long since one Frenchman entered with a small barque, which was betrayed, surprised and taken by two gallies of the Portugals." In 1612 another attempt by the French to settle in the Gambia ended disastrously owing to sickness and mortality.

Letters patent conferring (*inter alia*) all the right of exclusive trade in the River Gambia were subsequently granted in 1598, 1618 and 1632 to other adventurers, but no attempt was made by the English to explore the river until 1618. The expedition in that year was commanded by George Thompson and had for its objective the opening up of

trade with Timbuktu. Leaving his ship at Gassan, Thompson proceeded with a small party in boats as far as the river Neriko. During his absence the crew of his ship were massacred by the Portuguese, but some of Thompson's party managed on their return to make their way overland to Cape Verde and thence to England. Thompson remained in the Gambia with seven companions, but was killed by one of them in a sudden quarrel. In the meantime a relief expedition had been sent out under the command of Richard Jobson, who seized some Portuguese shipping as a reprisal for the massacre at Gassan. Jobson also made his way up to Neriko and subsequently gave a glowing account of the commercial potentialities of the River Gambia in his *Golden Trade*. But both his and the previous expedition had resulted in considerable losses and a subsequent voyage, which he made in 1624, proved a complete failure. In the circumstances the patentees made no further attempt to exploit the resources of the Gambia, but confined their attention to the Gold Coast.

In 1651 the Commonwealth granted a patent to certain London merchants, who in that and the following year sent two expeditions to the River Gambia and established a trading post at Bintang. Members of the expedition proceeded as far as the Barakunda Falls in search of gold, but the climate took its toll. In 1652 Prince Rupert entered the Gambia with three Royalist ships and captured the patentees' vessels. After this heavy loss the patentees abandoned further enterprise in the Gambia.

In the meantime, James, Duke of Courland, who was the godson of James I of England, had, in about 1651, obtained from various native chiefs the cession of St. Andrew's Island and land at Banyon Point (Half Die), Juffure and Gassan. Settlers, merchants and missionaries were sent out by Courland and forts were erected on St. Andrew's Island and at Banyon Point. In 1658 the Duke of Courland was made a prisoner by the Swedes during a war between Sweden and Poland. As a consequence, funds ceased to be available for the maintenance of the garrisons and settlements in the Gambia, and in 1659 the Duke of Courland's agent at Amsterdam entered into an agreement with the Dutch West India Company whereby the Duke's possessions in the Gambia were handed over to the Company until such time as the Duke should be in a position to resume possession. In 1660, St. Andrew's Fort was captured and plundered by a French privateer in the Swedish service. The Dutch thereafter abandoned the fort and the Courlanders resumed possession.

After the Restoration, English interest in the Gambia was revived as the result of information which Prince Rupert had obtained in 1652 regarding the reputed existence of a gold mine in the upper reaches of the river. In 1660 a new patent was granted to a number of persons, who were styled the Royal Adventurers Trading to Africa and of whom the most prominent were James, Duke of York and Prince Rupert. At the end of that year the Adventurers sent an expedition to the

Gambia under the command of Major Robert Holmes who had been with Prince Rupert in the Gambia in 1652. Holmes arrived in the river at the beginning of the following year. He proceeded to occupy Dog Island, which he renamed Charles Island, and to erect a temporary fort there. On the 18th March 1661 he sailed up to St. Andrew's Island and called upon the Courlander officer in command to surrender, threatening to bombard the fort if his request was not complied with. There were only seven Europeans in the garrison and the Courlanders had no alternative but to submit. On the following day Holmes took possession of the fort, which he renamed James Fort after the Duke of York. An attempt was made in 1662 by the Dutch West India Company to gain possession of the fort, firstly, by inciting the natives of Barra against the English, secondly, by offering bribes to certain of the English officers, and lastly by bombarding the fort. None of these measures proved successful and the English remained in possession of the Island. In the meantime the Duke of Courland had lodged a protest against the seizure of his possessions in time of peace. On the 17th November 1664, after protracted negotiations, he relinquished in favour of Charles II all claim to his African possessions and in return was granted the Island of Tobago and the right for himself personally to trade in the River Gambia.

In 1677 the Royal Adventurers sublet their rights between Capes Blanco and Palmas to another body of Adventurers, who came to be known as the Gambia Adventurers. These latter Adventurers enjoyed those rights until 1678, when on the expiration of their lease, they reverted to the Royal African Company, which had purchased the rights and property of the Royal Adventurers six years previously.

In 1677 the French wrested the Island of Goree from the Dutch. The history of the next century and a half is the history of a continuous struggle between England and France for political and commercial supremacy in the regions of the Senegal and Gambia. By 1681 the French had acquired a small enclave at Albreda opposite James Island. Except for short periods, during which trouble with the natives of Barra or hostilities with England compelled them temporarily to abandon the place, they retained their foothold there until 1857.

In the wars with France following upon the English Revolution, James Fort was captured on four occasions by the French, namely, in 1695, 1702, 1704 and 1708, but no attempt was made by them to occupy the fort permanently. At the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the French recognised the right of the English to James Island and their settlements in the River Gambia.

One of the aftermaths of these wars was an outbreak of piracy along the West African coast. The English trade in the Gambia suffered heavily from the depredations of these pirates. In 1719 one of their number, Howel Davis, captured James Fort. An even more serious disaster occurred in 1721, when part of the garrison mutinied under the leadership of one of their officers, Captain John Massey, and seizing

one of the Company's ships, themselves turned pirate. Finally, in 1725, James Fort was very extensively damaged by an accidental explosion of gunpowder.

After these setbacks the African Company enjoyed 20 years of comparative prosperity. A very detailed account of the life and work of the Company's servants in the Gambia during this period is given in Francis Moore's *Travels into the Inland Parts of Africa*. Factories were established as far up the river as Fattatenda and at other places, and a fairly considerable trade was carried on with the interior of the continent.

Nevertheless, despite an annual subsidy from the British Government for the maintenance of their forts, the African Company became in course of time, involved in grave financial difficulties. In 1749 James Island was found to be "in a most miserable condition, the people in a melancholy situation for want of goods to carry on trade to support their garrison, not having had any supplies for upwards of five years, and not being allowed to trade for themselves—the consequences of which was that they were obliged to call in their outfactors on the continent . . . By being so neglected the chief trade is gone down the River Senegal to the French factory." In the following year it was reported that the garrison at James Fort "was reduced by sickness from twenty-five or thirty men to five or eight ; and, the officers being all dead, a common soldier had succeeded to the command."

By 1750 the position had become critical and an Act of Parliament was passed divesting the African Company of its charter and vesting its forts and settlements in a new company, which was controlled by a committee of merchants. The Act prohibited the new company from trading in its corporate capacity but allowed it an annual subsidy for the upkeep of the forts. It was hoped thereby to prevent the monopolistic tendencies of rule by a joint stock company and at the same time to save the Government the expense entailed by the creation of a colonial civil service.

In 1765 the forts and settlements in the Gambia were, by another Act of Parliament, taken from this new company and vested in the Crown. For the next 18 years the Gambia formed part of the Crown Colony of Senegambia. Government headquarters were at St. Louis at the mouth of the River Senegal and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed to take charge of James Fort and the settlements in the Gambia.

In 1779 the French captured James Fort for the fifth and last time. On this occasion they so successfully demolished the fortifications that at the close of the war it was found impossible to rebuild them. Except for a brief period after the Napoleonic Wars, when the island was temporarily occupied by a handful of troops as an outpost, James Island ceased to play any part in the history of the Gambia.

In 1780 the French privateer *Senegal* captured four vessels which had been sent, with part of the British garrison at Goree under the

command of Major Houghton, to the Bintang Creek to obtain building material. The *Senegal* was in its turn attacked by H.M.S. *Zephyr* and captured after a very warm action off Barra Point. The prizes had in the meantime been destroyed, but the troops, who had taken refuge on shore and had been befriended by the Jolas of Foni, were rescued by the *Zephyr*.

In 1783 St. Louis and Goree were handed back to France and Senegambia ceased to exist as a British Colony. The Gambia was therefore, once more entrusted to the care of the African Company, which, however, made no attempt to administer it.

In 1785 Lemain (MacCarthy) Island was acquired by the British Government with a view to establishing a convict settlement, but nothing came of the plan, the convicts being eventually diverted to other places.

For the next 30 years British influence in the Gambia was confined to the operations of a number of individual traders. Settlements were established by these traders along the river banks. Perhaps the most important of these was at Pisanía (Karantaba). This settlement, which was already in existence in 1779, was occupied by a doctor named Laidley and a family of the name of Aynsley. Subsequently, invaluable assistance was rendered by both Laidley and the Aynsleys to Major Houghton (1790), Mungo Park (1795 and 1805) and Major Grey (1818) in the course of their journeys of exploration into the interior of Africa.

In 1794, on the representations of the African Association, James Willis was appointed Consul General for Senegambia and was ordered to proceed to Fattatenda to promote British trade and influence in the upper regions of the Gambia and the Niger. For various reasons this expedition never sailed and it was left to Mungo Park under the auspices of the African Association to make his way from Karantaba to the upper reaches of the Niger.

In 1807 the African slave trade was abolished by Act of Parliament. At that date the British were in possession of Goree. With the co-operation of the Royal Navy, the garrison of that fort made strenuous efforts to suppress the traffic in the River Gambia which was being carried on by American and Spanish vessels. On more than one occasion the slavers offered a stubborn resistance and the Royal African Corps suffered severe casualties.

At the close of the Napoleonic Wars it was agreed, as part of the terms of the treaty of peace, that Goree should be returned to France. On the recommendation of Sir Charles MacCarthy and in order to suppress the traffic in slaves, the British Government issued instructions that James Island or some other suitable place in the river should be occupied as a military post. Captain Alexander Grant of the African Corps was accordingly despatched with some troops for the purpose. James Island was reoccupied but owing to the ruinous state of the fort it was found to be unsuitable as a military base. On the 23rd April 1816, Grant entered into a treaty with the King of Kombo

for the cession of the island of Banjol to the British Government. The Island was renamed St. Mary's Island and the settlement, which was established there, was called Bathurst after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In 1821 the African Company was dissolved by Act of Parliament and the Gambia was placed under the jurisdiction of the Government of Sierra Leone. The Gambia was administered from Sierra Leone until 1843, when it was created a separate colony. This arrangement continued until 1866, when the Gambia and Sierra Leone were once more united under the same administration.

In the meantime the British Government extended its territorial acquisitions beyond St. Mary's Island by concluding treaties with a number of native chiefs. In 1826 the north bank at the river's mouth was ceded to Great Britain by the King of Barra. In 1823 Major Grant acquired Lemain Island, which was renamed MacCarthy Island and was made into a settlement for liberated African slaves as well as the headquarters of a Wesleyan mission. In 1840 and 1853 considerable areas of the mainland adjoining St. Mary's Island were obtained from the King of Kombo for the settlement of discharged soldiers of the West India Regiments and liberated Africans. Cessions of other tracts of land further upstream were obtained at various dates. In 1857 Albreda, which, as a foreign enclave in the middle of British territory, had proved a constant source of friction between British and French governments, was handed over to Great Britain, who in exchange, renounced her rights to the gum trade at Portendic.

In 1870 and 1876 negotiations were entered into between the French and British Governments for the exchange of the Gambia for other territory in West Africa, but the proposal aroused such opposition in Parliament and amongst various mercantile bodies in England and the native inhabitants of the Gambia that the British Government felt unable to press the scheme.

In 1888 the Gambia once more separated from Sierra Leone and has ever since that date been a separate colony. In the following year an agreement was arrived at between the French and British Governments for the delimitation of the boundaries of the Gambia, Senegal and the Casamance. In the meantime, despite a number of petty wars, the Gambia Government had been able to conclude a series of treaties with the principal chiefs living upon the banks of the river. Some of these provided for the cession of small tracts of territory, but the majority of the later treaties conferred British protection. The last and most important of these was concluded in 1901 with Musa Molloh, the paramount chief of Fuladu. In 1894 an Ordinance was passed for the better administration of those districts which had not been ceded to, but merely placed under the protection of, the British Government. It was also found that in practice it was not feasible to administer as part of the Colony, isolated tracts of land lying at a considerable distance from the seat of Government. Consequently in 1895, and the

following years, Ordinances were passed bringing a number of these strips of territory under the protectorate system of administration. Finally, by a Protectorate Ordinance passed in 1902, the whole of the Gambia, with the exception of the Island of St. Mary, was brought under the protectorate system.

It is not proposed here to attempt to summarise the more recent history of the Gambia, which may be found in the Annual Reports published during the past 40 years, but during that time the pace of development in the Colony has outstripped that of the Protectorate, and has accentuated the cleavage between the two areas considerably.

The population of the Protectorate, except for the annual ingress and egress of the "strange" farmer from the neighbouring French and Portuguese territories of the Senegal and the Casamance, mainly comprises the indigenous peasant tribes who still cling tenaciously to the native law and custom handed down to them from their ancestors. Bathurst, on the other hand, carries a population of a somewhat cosmopolitan character, consisting of an admixture of persons of very different races and creeds, who have imported with them certain characteristics peculiar to their several places of origin. The social structure of the capital thus has its foundation in a mixture of the endemic and the exotic.

By a constitutional measure of 1947 an unofficial majority was introduced to the Legislative Council including one elected member to represent Bathurst and Kombo St. Mary. Four years later a further step was taken and the Council which met for its inaugural session in November 1951, included eight unofficial members of whom two were elected to represent Bathurst and one Kombo St. Mary, while four were appointed to represent the four divisions of the Protectorate and one, commercial interests. The office of Vice-President was also created at that time and filled by a Gambian who normally presided at meetings of the Council. All the elected members were appointed to the Executive Council and two became Members of the Government without Portfolio.

By 1953 it was apparent that the Gambia was ready for further advance and a Consultative Committee of 34 prominent citizens of Bathurst and the Colony, including all available members and former members of the Legislative Council, met under the presidency of the Governor to deliberate on the formulation of a new constitution. The conclusions of the Committee were embodied in proposals submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and approved with minor amendments in July 1953. It has been related earlier in Part I of this report that a constitution based on these proposals came into force towards the end of 1954, when elections were held. The Councils then set up are reported on in detail in the succeeding Chapter on administration and it suffices to say here that the Gambia (Constitution) Order in Council, 1954, provides for the election of 14 unofficial members to the Legislative Council, the nomination of two others and the appointment of a

Speaker. The Governor remains President of the Council. There are four *ex-officio* members and one nominated official member who, it is provided, shall be a Gambian officer of the public service. The Executive Council includes four *ex-officio* members, the nominated official member of Legislative Council and six unofficial members. Thus, there is for the first time an unofficial majority in the Executive Council. It is also provided that the Governor, shall, after consultation with the elected and nominated unofficial members of the Legislature, select from among the appointed members of the Executive Council not less than two nor more than three persons to be Ministers charged with responsibility for certain activities of Government. Each Minister is assisted by a small advisory committee including members of the public and the Heads of the Departments concerned.

During 1955 the Government took advantage of an opportunity to purchase a substantial building of modern design in Bathurst for conversion to a Legislative Council Chamber with accommodation for approximately one hundred and fifty visitors. The Chamber was completed and opened at a session of the Council in December 1955.

Chapter 3 : Administration

THE office of Governor is constituted by the Letters Patent of the 1st September 1954.

Prior to this date the Executive Council comprised the Colonial Secretary as *ex officio* member and nine appointed members of whom four were unofficials. On the 30th August 1954, however, was made the Gambia (Constitution) Order in Council, Statutory Instrument No. 1145 of 1954, by which the Executive Council is declared to consist of the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Senior Commissioner as *ex officio* members, one official member and not less than six appointed members. It is provided that the last shall all be elected or nominated unofficial members of the Legislative Council, appointed by the Governor after consultation with all unofficial members of the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council is declared by the same Order in Council to consist of the Governor as President, a Speaker appointed by the Governor after consultation, the Colonial Secretary, Financial Secretary, Attorney General and Senior Commissioner as *ex officio* members, one nominated official member who is a Gambian member of the Public Service, two nominated unofficial members of whom one represents commerce, and 14 elected members. Three of the last are elected under the provisions of the Colony Elections Ordinance, 1954, to represent Bathurst and one to represent Kombo St. Mary. Four are elected to represent the Protectorate by the Divisional Councils from

among persons nominated by the District Authorities, and three are elected also to represent the Protectorate by the 135 Head Chiefs of the Gambia. The 11 members thus elected do themselves elect the remaining three from among six persons nominated by the Bathurst Town Council and three by the Kombo St. Mary Rural Authority.

The Order in Council also provides for selection by the Governor, after consultation with all unofficial members of the Legislative Council, of not less than two nor more than three appointed members of Executive Council to be Ministers bearing responsibility for any matters placed in their charge. After elections held in October 1954, three Ministers, holding portfolios relating to Education and Welfare, Works and Communications, and Agriculture and Natural Resources, held office, until, on the 20th December 1955, the number was reduced to two.

A full description of the Judicial system of the Colony and Protectorate appears in Part II, Chapter 9.

Of the various portions of the Colony, Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island and the Ceded Mile are administered as part of the Protectorate, leaving only the Island of St. Mary, which includes the town of Bathurst and Kombo St. Mary Division on the mainland, under their own systems of administration. Within this area the functions of Government are exercised directly by the departments concerned. There is a Commissioner of the Colony charged with general supervisory responsibilities but no executive powers.

Local Government

The Local Government Authority in the Island of St. Mary is the Bathurst Town Council established under the Local Government (Bathurst) Ordinance, 1946, which consists of the Colony Commissioner as an *ex officio* member, four nominated members and three elected members from each of the five wards. The Ordinance provides for progressive extension of the Council's responsibilities and its main activities consist, at present, of the lighting of streets, the maintenance of buildings, markets and drains, care of open spaces and the maintenance of all cleansing services within the town. The Council draws revenue from rates levied on private, commercial and Government premises which are all subject to annual valuation, market dues, sundry grants from Government and duties on palm wine entering the town.

The Kombo Rural Authority was set up early in 1947 under the Kombo St. Mary Division Ordinance of 1946. It consists of a Chairman at present the Colony Commissioner, six nominated unofficial members and, since 1953, 20 elected unofficial members. The Authority concerns itself with the maintenance of village streets and markets and some forms of agricultural development. Revenue is derived from rates, fees from trade licences and the hire of market stalls.

The Protectorate is administered in the four Divisions—Western, Central, MacCarthy Island and Upper River—whose boundaries were laid down in 1947 (Proclamation No. 2 of 1947). Each of them comprise a section of each bank of the river and is in the charge of a Commissioner. Their headquarters are at Brikama, Mansakonko, Georgetown and Basse respectively.

Each Division consists of a number of districts under a head chief whose appointment is approved by the Governor by proclamation. There are 35 such districts of various sizes, ranging from 305 to eight square miles and with populations of between 32,000 and 900 persons. These districts may be divided into sub-districts under sub-chiefs but none is in existence at present.

Each district possesses a Native Authority and a Native Tribunal. The Native Authority is declared by the Governor for any specified area and may be any chief or other native council or group of natives. The district head was previously the native Authority but a change was made in all the districts during 1945 when the district head became the president and the village heads, with their advisers-in-council, were appointed members of the Authority. The Native Authority has powers to make orders and rules to be obeyed by natives within the districts, and is expected to maintain order and good government in the area over which its authority extends. The Native Authority Ordinance, 1933, confers these powers.

Mention has been made in Part II, Chapter 9, of the native tribunal system, which was remodelled in January 1946, by the creation of two grades, the group and the district tribunals. There are now 35 district tribunals, with the district head as president and an average of six elders as members. Two group tribunals were constituted in 1946, serving the three Kombo and five Foni districts of the Western Division, and a third was started in 1947, serving three districts in the MacCarthy Island Division.

Under the Protectorate Treasuries Ordinance, No. 13 of 1945, a number of group or district treasuries have been established, and are making steady progress. Although each district frames its own estimates of revenue and expenditure the majority, prefer to group for the purpose of a treasury, which is managed by a finance committee.

The sources of revenue are monies derived from the imposition of district rates, rents, tribunal fees, timber and miscellaneous fees, and interests on investments.

The annual Chiefs' Conference—which was held at Brikama in the Western Division in 1954 and at Georgetown in the MacCarthy Island Division in 1955—becomes of increasing importance each year. It is interesting to note that matters of a progressively wider and more abstract nature are referred to the Conference with the most encouraging results and legislation affecting the Protectorate in particular is always, unless of great urgency, referred with full explanation to the Chiefs for their comments. The number of official and unofficial visitors

continues to increase and there is an air of festival about the Conference week with its wrestling, music, dancing, horse racing and other local and imported sports and pastimes which has made invitations to attend much sought after.

Fresh provision was made for the tenure and management of lands in the Protectorate Lands Ordinance, 1945, by which they are declared to be vested in the authorities of the districts in which they are situated and to be held and administered for the use and common benefit of the communities concerned.

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS 1954—1955

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

(*at end of 1955*)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| President | His Excellency the Governor. |
| Ex Officio Members | The Honourable the Colonial Secretary. The Honourable the Financial Secretary. The Honourable the Attorney General. The Honourable Senior Commissioner. |
| The Official Member | The Honourable Dr. S. H. O. Jones, O.B.E., Director of Medical Services. |

Appointed Members

| | |
|---|--|
| The Honourable and Reverend J. C. Faye, M.B.E. | Elected Member of Legislative Council and Minister of Works and Commu- nications. |
| The Honourable I. M. Garba- Jahumpa, J.P. | Elected Member of Legislative Council and Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. |
| The Honourable H. A. Madi, J.P. | Elected Member of Legislative Council. |
| The Honourable Seyfu Landing Sali Sonko | Elected Member of Legislative Council. |
| The Honourable J. L. Mahoney | Elected Member of Legislative Council. |
| The Honourable Seyfu Karamo Kabbah Sanneh | Elected Member of Legislative Council. |

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(*at end of 1955*)

| | |
|---|--------------|
| His Excellency the Governor | President |
| The Honourable J. A. Mahoney, M.B.E., J.P. | The Speaker. |

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.
The Honourable the Attorney General.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary.
The Honourable the Senior Commissioner.

Nominated Official Member

The Honourable Dr. S. H. O.
Jones, O.B.E.

Director of Medical Services.

Nominated Unofficial Members

The Honourable E. F. Small, O.B.E.
The Honourable T. D. Mallinson.

Unofficial Members

The Honourable P. S. N'Jie
The Honourable and Reverend
J. C. Faye, M.B.E.
The Honourable I. M. Garba-
Jahumpa, J.P.
The Honourable H. A. Madi, J.P.
The Honourable Seyfu Landing
Sali Sonko
The Honourable J. L. Mahoney
The Honourable Seyfu Karamo
Kabbah Sanneh
The Honourable Sekuba Foday
Jarjusey
The Honourable Seyfu Omar
M'Baki
The Honourable Alhaji
Muhamadou Kurubally
The Honourable Ebrahima N.
Sarge
The Honourable Alhaji Aliou
Ousman Jeng
The Honourable Seyfu Koba
Leigh
The Honourable Howsoon Ous-
man Semega-Janneh

First Elected Member for Bathurst.
Second Elected Member for Bathurst.
Third Elected Member for Bathurst.
Elected Member for Kombo Saint Mary.
Elected Member for the Protectorate.
Elected Member.
Elected Member for the Protectorate.
Elected Member for the Protectorate.
Elected Member for the Protectorate.
Elected Member for the Protectorate.
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Elected Member for the Protectorate.
Elected Member for the Protectorate.
Elected Member.
Elected Member for the Protectorate.
Elected Member.

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are in general use.

Chapter 5 : Reading List

PUBLICATIONS, other than those of purely official character which are listed on p. 76, are limited in number. Most of the older publications are now out of print. Those listed below include books dealing exclusively with the Gambia, and not books which relate to West Africa in general.

The Gambia Colony and Protectorate, an Official Handbook, by F. Bisset Archer, London, St. Bride's Press Ltd., 1906. A very general

survey of the Colony up to the date of publication ; much of the information given, particularly the historical portion, is of value even at the present time.

History of the Gambia, by H. F. Reeve, London, Smith Elder and Co., 1912.

The Gambia, by Lady Southern. Allen and Unwin, 1952.

A History of the Gambia, by J. M. Gray. Cambridge University Press, 1940.

The Carthaginian Voyage in West Africa, by Sir Richmond Palmer. Bathurst Stationery Store, 1931. This booklet includes a translated extract from Sultan Mohammed Bello's account of the origin of the Fulbe Tribe.

A Short Phrase Book and Classified Vocabulary of the Mandinka Language, by G. N. N. Nunn, Bathurst Stationery Store, 1934.

Stone Circles in the Gambia, by Harry Parker. London, Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1923.

Stories of the Gambia. Bathurst Information Office, 1945. This booklet which was written as a short text book, is based on and brings up to date, *A Short History of the Gambia*, by W. T. Hamlyn, which is now out of print.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

GAMBIA GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable from the Information Office, Bathurst, or the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.

| | Price |
|--|----------|
| <i>Trade Reports</i> for 1954 and 1955 : each | 10s. 6d. |
| <i>Notes on Strange Farmers</i> , 1946 | 6d. |
| <i>A Short Study of the Mandinka Language</i> , by W. T. Hamlyn, 1935 | 5s. |
| <i>Gambia Gazette</i> | 20s. |
| <i>A Report of a Survey of the Rice Areas in the Central Division of the Gambia</i> , by C. O. van der Plas | 1s. |
| <i>Gambia Rice Farm Annual Report</i> | 5s. |
| <i>Government Statement on Secondary Education</i> | 6d. |
| <i>Protectorate Treasuries Progress Report, 1954</i> | 1s. |
| <i>Statement of Government Policy regarding Groundnut prices and the use of a Stabilization fund and Kindred matters, 1955</i> | 6d. |

- Summaries of the 11th and 12th Annual Conference of Protectorate Chiefs* 1s. 6d.
The Carthaginian Voyage to West Africa, by H. R. Palmer . 5s.
Report of the Commissioner on the Civil Service of the Gambia,
 by H. O. Ramage, C.M.G., 1954 10s.

UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office.

- Report of the Commission on Higher Education in West Africa*, Cmd. 6655. 1945. 3s. (3s. 5d.).
Report of the Mission appointed to enquire into the production and transport of Vegetable Oils and Oil Seeds produced in the West African Colonies. Col. No. 211. 1947. 1s. 3d. (1s. 6d.).
Report of the West African Oilseeds Mission. Col. No. 224. 1948. 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).
An Economic Survey of the Colonial Territories 1951. Volume III : The West African Territories. £1 5s. 0d. (£1 5s. 5d.).
Agreement . . . respecting the Delimitation of certain portions of Boundary between Senegal and the Gambia. Treaty Series No. 13, 1929. Cmd. 3340. 1s. (1s. 2d.).

APPENDIX I

REVENUE

| | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | Revised Estimates |
| 1. Revenue from local sources : | | | | | | | | |
| Customs (net) | 375,176 | 319,016 | 429,839 | 533,033 | 643,211 | 517,743 | 831,537 | 799,000 |
| Port Dues | 3,097 | 27,758 | 31,256 | 34,197 | 33,817 | 29,550 | 30,526 | 34,000 |
| Taxes and Rates | 230,468 | 187,848 | 137,766 | 179,301 | 299,175 | 229,289 | 134,801 | 154,000 |
| Licences, etc. | 5,935 | 8,123 | 9,671 | 14,364 | 16,616 | 14,513 | 15,043 | 15,640 |
| Fees, etc. | 22,091 | 23,325 | 25,028 | 22,745 | 19,730 | 12,610 | 13,434 | 15,870 |
| Commercial opera- tions | 27,626 | 35,845 | 31,803 | 38,562 | 41,743 | 48,320 | 74,781 | 79,240 |
| Posts, etc. | 10,902 | 42,441 | 11,332 | 12,663 | 13,441 | 35,859 | 37,821 | 24,480 |
| Rents | 5,480 | 7,709 | 8,915 | 8,284 | 8,687 | 6,925 | 9,344 | 9,300 |
| Miscellaneous | 14,557 | 18,271 | 19,884 | 14,066 | 24,343 | 17,113 | 24,229 | 14,532 |
| TOTAL LOCAL SOURCES | 695,332 | 670,338 | 705,494 | 857,215 | 1,110,763 | 911,922 | 1,171,516 | 1,146,062 |
| 2. Interest | 20,762 | 20,314 | 20,904 | 15,642 | 15,823 | 17,679 | 23,194 | 25,445 |
| Total comparable revenue | 716,094 | 690,652 | 726,398 | 872,857 | 1,126,586 | 929,601 | 1,194,710 | 1,171,507 |
| 3. Currency Board profits | 7,690 | 9,404 | 18,840 | 13,768 | 5,980 | 15,604 | 18,950 | 18,000 |
| 4. C.D.F. and C.D. and W. Grants | 90,109 | 158,276 | 187,703 | 167,248 | 58,119 | 137,256 | 92,480 | 162,832 |
| 5. Other Grants | — | — | — | 215,797 | 68,115 | 78,021 | 74,464 | 107,087 |
| Total net Revenue | 813,893 | 858,332 | 932,941 | 1,079,670 | 1,258,750 | 1,160,482 | 1,380,604 | 1,459,426 |
| Revenue collected and refunded | 1,290 | 5,967 | 7,998 | 8,515 | 5,938 | 4,440 | 5,968 | 4,000 |
| Transfers from Reserves | 51,717 | 71,713 | 17,621 | 6,664 | 120,505 | — | — | — |
| Advances and repay- ments | — | 28,143 | 16,789 | 21,114 | 23,051 | 21,826 | 18,947 | 19,020 |
| Sale of unallocated stores and Manufacturing Accounts | — | — | 23,867 | 28,862 | 23,251 | 14,320 | 14,837 | 10,700 |
| Loan | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| GROSS REVENUE | 866,900 | 964,155 | 999,216 | 1,144,825 | 1,431,495 | 1,201,068 | 1,420,356 | 1,493,146 |

APPENDIX II

EXPENDITURE

| | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | (estimated) |
| Recurrent Expenditure : | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Emoluments | 206,356 | 235,503 | 280,884 | 323,198 | 348,037 | 371,087 | 430,396 | 525,668 |
| ordinary . . . | 13,073 | 15,178 | 17,010 | 15,004 | 15,104 | 20,481 | 17,113 | 16,630 |
| Military and Defence . . | 300,904 | 405,531 | 311,471 | 370,506 | 510,545 | 493,805 | 525,054 | 525,244 |
| Departmental and Services | 36,120 | 32,925 | 37,246 | 41,555 | 49,379 | 56,876 | 59,389 | 60,612 |
| Pensions and Gratuities . | | | | | | | | |
| Steamer Depreciation | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 8,000 |
| Fund, etc. . . | 2,093 | 2,206 | 2,318 | 2,318 | 2,318 | 2,318 | 9,558 | 16,800 |
| Public Debt. . . | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Recurrent Expenditure : | | | | | | | | |
| Land purchase and Public | 124,193 | 125,390 | 176,601 | 228,490 | 227,238 | 61,363 | 52,855 | 97,470 |
| Works . . . | | | | | | | | |
| Expenditure against | 61,134 | 102,924 | 78,036 | 153,620 | 137,644 | 69,331 | 28,445 | 155,281 |
| Special Grants . . | | | | | | | | |
| Real Expenditure . . | 749,873 | 1,035,657 | 909,566 | 1,140,691 | 1,296,265 | 1,081,261 | 1,128,810 | 1,405,705 |
| Revenue refunds . . | 1,290 | 5,967 | 7,998 | 8,515 | 5,938 | 4,440 | 5,968 | 4,000 |
| Advances . . . | 12,934 | 60,519 | 24,022 | 25,384 | 44,199 | 13,542 | 46,873 | 25,605 |
| Transfers to reserve . | 250,000 | 68,047 | 8,000 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unallocated stores and | | | | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | — | — | 112,726 | -3,562* | 77,811 | (13,550) | (13,342) | (12,000) |
| Account . . . | | | | | | | | |
| GROSS EXPENDITURE .£ | 1,014,097 | 1,170,190 | 1,062,312 | 1,171,028 | 1,424,213 | 1,085,693 | 1,168,309 | 1,423,310 |

* Refund

APPENDIX III

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 1951 to 1955

| <i>Head of Estimate</i> | <i>Head of Expenditure</i> | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | (Revised Estimates) |
| 1. The Governor | . | 6,825 | 8,144 | 9,270 | 9,305 | 8,415 |
| 2. Accountant General's Department | . | 7,094 | 9,166 | 9,600 | 11,589 | 11,845 |
| 3. Agriculture and Development | . | 56,834 | 106,033 | 87,408 | 50,173 | 64,890 |
| 4. Audit Department | . | 4,412 | 4,253 | 4,854 | 5,271 | 5,442 |
| 5. Colony Administration | . | 4,603 | 5,380 | 7,646 | 8,310 | 6,771 |
| 6. Crown Law and Lands | . | 4,117 | 4,437 | 3,908 | 4,620 | 5,924 |
| 7. Customs | . | 17,332 | 15,246 | 14,330 | 17,559 | 16,367 |
| 8. Education Department | . | 53,994 | 58,947 | 59,651 | 73,265 | 87,421 |
| 9. Electricity Department | . | — | — | — | — | 68,014 |
| 10. Forestry | . | — | — | 4,513 | 3,979 | 5,992 |
| — Income Tax | . | 1,482 | 1,656 | — | — | — |
| 11. Judicial Department | . | 7,043 | 5,452 | 7,611 | 8,580 | 9,883 |
| 12. Legislature | . | 1,765 | 2,265 | 2,608 | 3,725 | 8,811 |
| 13. Marine | . | — | — | 97,917 | 79,389 | 115,522 |
| 14. Medical and Health Services | . | 80,502 | 89,860 | 103,051 | 108,269 | 115,425 |
| — Meteorological Services | . | 4,476 | 4,417 | — | — | — |
| 15. Miscellaneous Services | . | 72,168 | 142,730 | 71,014 | 143,685 | 112,796 |
| 16. Pensions and Gratuities | . | 41,555 | 49,379 | 56,876 | 59,389 | 60,612 |
| 17. Police | . | 34,308 | 40,197 | 45,677 | 48,170 | 57,475 |
| 18. Post Office | . | 10,982 | 10,862 | 13,791 | 10,320 | 40,062 |
| 19. Printing Office | . | 16,358 | 19,169 | 15,222 | 16,254 | 15,864 |
| 20. Prisons | . | 8,935 | 12,010 | 12,706 | 12,832 | 12,108 |
| 21. Protectorate Administration | . | 35,468 | 35,450 | 34,112 | 24,211 | 58,492 |
| 22. Public Debt Charges | . | 2,318 | 2,318 | 2,318 | 9,558 | 16,800 |
| 23. Public Works Department | . | 106,124 | 199,803 | 54,046 | 92,627 | 57,650 |

Continued on next page

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 1951 to 1955—*cont.*

| <i>Head of Estimate</i> | <i>Head of Expenditure</i> | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | (Revised Estimates) |
| 24. | Public Works Annually Recurrent | 151,775 | 173,740 | 126,977 | 133,550 | 100,623 |
| 25. | Public Works Extraordinary | 382,110 | 364,882 | 65,390 | 52,855 | 97,470 |
| 26. | P.W. Department (Development Works) | — | — | 65,304 | 28,445 | 116,128 |
| 27. | Reserve Appropriation | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 6,000 | 8,000 |
| 28. | Royal West African Frontier Force | 15,004 | 15,105 | 20,481 | 17,113 | 16,630 |
| 29. | Secretariat | 20,625 | 19,938 | 27,075 | 60,370 | 67,931 |
| 30. | Survey Department | 6,544 | 6,615 | 6,739 | 7,440 | 8,051 |
| 31. | Veterinary Services | 10,275 | 10,759 | 11,112 | 13,192 | 13,526 |
| 32. | Wallikunda Rice Farm | — | — | 38,486 | 48,264 | 32,370 |
| | TOTAL | 1,171,028 | 1,424,213 | 1,085,693 | 1,168,309 | 1,423,310 |

APPENDIX IV

MAJOR COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES IN PROGRESS OR INITIATED IN 1954—1955

| <i>Scheme No.</i> | <i>Scheme</i> | <i>Total Cost</i> £ | <i>C.D. and W. Grant</i> £ | <i>Amount Spent up to 31st December 1954</i> £ | <i>Date Begun</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| D.636D | Bathurst drainage | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 1952 |
| D.883 D.883A D.883C D.883E | New Victoria Hospital | 200,000 | 200,000 | 192,381 | 1949 |
| D.1515 | Agriculture | — | 35,000 | 35,000 | 1951 |
| D.1092 | Veterinary Services. | — | 45,000 | 42,143 | 1949 |
| D.2136 | Bathurst Schools | 82,000 | 82,000 | 15 | 1954 |
| D.2022 | Bathurst Streets | 90,000 | 90,000 | — | 1955 |
| D.1907 | Bathurst Water Supply | 68,000 | 68,000 | 1,111 | 1954 |
| D.2028 | Wallikunda Experimental Rice Farm | — | 136,232 | 81,107 | 1953 |

STATISTICS OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES HEARD, 1954 AND 1955

N.B.—These figures do not take account of revision of sentence on appeal.

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